

Bay Area Reporter

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395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103



Lesbians, gays, and bisexuals marched in memory of the late lesbian AIDS activist Joan Baker this past Saturday. (Photo: Jane Philomena Cleland)

Joan Baker 'Funeral' Confronts Realities of HIV-Positive Women

by Angela Bocage

At times the idea of a gay/lesbian/bi "community" seems quaintly mythological. But on other occasions, such as Saturday, October 23, its individual, often fractionalized members put the "unity" back in community. On that day, as marchers assembled at noon for a "political funeral" called by Lesbian Avengers and other groups to honor lesbian AIDS activist Joan Baker, organizers distributed informa-

tion, and friends greeted friends, but the mood was deeply serious and the talk was of togetherness.

Jenn Maeder, Baker's lover, began the march by asking that participants "let compassion and respect overcome our anger" about the death of this "undaunted lesbian who fought for the recognition of all women — lesbian, bi, heterosexual, and unlabeled — with HIV."

Anger was present, certainly, and it showed when an

anti-gay political sect attempted — unsuccessfully — to crash the event. After which the march proceeded peacefully to Market and Castro, escorted by dykes on roaring bikes. The crowd filled the west-bound lanes of 18th Street; eastbound motorists waved or honked in support.

A taxi driver gave a raised-fist salute as he passed the phalanx of signs with Joan Baker's picture and such messages as "Wake Up Call: Get (Continued on page 14)

Shanti Holds Open Forum Tonight

by Jim Provenzano

The board of directors of Shanti Project, the AIDS service organization, has scheduled the second in a series of community meetings "to discuss issues of interest," for Thursday, October 28.

Shanti clients, volunteers, staff, and other constituents will have a chance to talk with board members about the status of Shanti services and the agency's future. One expected topic of discussion is the status of Shanti House, the 64-bed residential facility for people with AIDS.

Because of 1992 fiscal irregularities within Shanti Project, its housing facilities, including Shanti House, will be divided among other support organizations. The resulting impact on the community is still unknown, and a source of concern among people with HIV and AIDS. The audit of Shanti Project's books, which was to have been completed before this town hall meeting, on September 31, has been extended by the San Francisco Department of Health until December. The forum will be held anyway, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the Douglass Alternative School Auditorium, located at 4235 19th Street, between Collingwood and Diamond streets in the Castro. ▼

AIDS Update Confab Opens in San Francisco

by Lidia Wasowicz
UPI Science Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Prominent AIDS researchers delivered an upbeat message Wednesday, October 20, at a meeting where they noted renewed enthusiasm, optimism and hope, as well as promising new vaccine tests in the fight against the deadly disease.

They said they are forging ahead with studies of long-term survivors, combination drug therapies, individualized

tests to determine treatment effectiveness, and inoculation trials on thousands of gay men and intravenous drug users.

The widespread discouragement and pessimism that followed last summer's international AIDS conference in Berlin — where scientists presented a slew of disappointing study results for what had once been considered promising therapies — have given way to more positive atti-

(Continued on page 16)

VOTE

This week encompasses both Halloween and Election Day. Do not confuse the two. Don't vote for a scary monster; don't get tricked on Election Day.

The following list is of the *Bay Area Reporter's* endorsements, but the choices are still and always up to each individual voter. If we could only endorse one thing, it would be voting itself. (If we could endorse only two, by the way, we would add our voice to the chorus of outrage against Proposition 174 on the state ballot.)

As Abraham Lincoln said, "This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it." Tuesday is the day to constitutionally amend it as the majority of voters see fit. It's a day without a parallel in far too many societies around the globe, still, but we have it here, still. Use it.

B.A.R. Endorsements

City Attorney
Louise Renne

City Treasurer
Mary Callanan

STATE PROPOSITIONS: Vote NO on all of them.

CITY PROPOSITIONS:

Vote YES on: D, E, F, G, H, I, J, L, N, O, Q, R, S, T, U, W, X

Vote NO on: B, C, K, M, P, V, Y, Z, AA, BB

Proposition A: No Position

Clinton Administration Appeals to Supreme Court on Pentagon-Gay Suit

by Karen Ocamb

If it didn't seriously impact so many lives, watching the "gays-in-the-military" ball bounce from court to court to court might be an amusing pastime.

On Tuesday, October 26, the Clinton Administration appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene and stop enforcement of a federal district judge's order requiring the Defense Department and Pentagon to cease all discharges and discrimination against homosexuals in the armed forces.

The decision comes less than a week after a series of news stories in mainstream newspapers quoted unnamed Administration and Justice Department officials as saying the Justice Department would wait until November to decide whether to appeal.

On October 20, the Baltimore Sun quoted an unnamed, high level Administra-



President Bill "The Betrayer" Clinton.

tion lawyer as saying that after much discussion between lawyers for the White House, the Defense Department, and the Justice Department, the decision was made to wait un-

til the Defense Authorization Bill goes into effect. That bill contains Senator Sam Nunn's new provision, passed by Congress, that in effect enacts a new ban on homosexuals in the military.

"The Justice attorneys apparently felt that their chances of winning were low — but if they file after the new law goes into effect, that will strengthen their chances to have the Supreme Court intervene and overturn Judge Hatter's decision," John McGuire, the attorney who would argue the case before the high court on behalf of his client, Navy Petty Officer Keith Meinhold, said after reading the Sun story.

McGuire will argue the case before the high court.

McGuire's analysis was bolstered by an October 22 story in the *Washington Post*, which reported that the government's hesitancy to go to the Supreme Court was be-

(Continued on page 26)

First of Two Sections

"Vote NO on Prop 174!"



TOM AMMIANO
President,
San Francisco
Board of Education

"Don't let religious fundamentalists destroy public education in California. Don't let them use YOUR tax dollars to teach ignorance and bigotry."

ALICE B. TOKLAS LESBIAN/GAY DEMOCRATIC CLUB ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS

RE-ELECT CITY ATTORNEY **Louise Renne**
RE-ELECT CITY TREASURER **Mary Callanan**

STATE PROPOSITIONS

Prop 168.....Affordable rental housing.....	YES
Prop 169.....Budget implementation.....	YES
Prop 170.....School bonds.....	YES
Prop 171.....Tax base transfer.....	YES
Prop 172...Public safety funds.....	YES
Prop 173 Housing/jobs investment.....	YES
Prop 174School vouchers.....	NO

SAN FRANCISCO PROPOSITIONS

Prop A Lesbian/gay cultural center funds..	YES
Prop B.....Street improvement bonds.....	YES
Prop C...Extend 1/2 cent sales tax	YES
Prop D.....Early retirement.....	YES
Prop E.....Spousal pension benefits.....	YES
Prop F Retirement system choice	YES
Prop G.....Wage freeze.....	YES
Prop H.....Lease financing.....	YES
Prop ISupport public health.....	YES
Prop J.....City funds management.....	YES
Prop K.....Ethics Commission	YES
Prop L Streamline personnel management ..	YES
Prop M.....Better Muni service.....	YES
Prop NCharter reform now.....	YES
Prop O.....Board committee meetings.....	YES
Prop P.....Supervisors' meetings.....	YES
Prop Q.....Purchasing procedures.....	YES
Prop R.....Retirement Board.....	YES
Prop S.....Fine Arts Museums.....	YES
Prop T.....Deputy fire chiefs.....	YES
Prop U.....Election procedures.....	YES
Prop VJordan's welfare fraud.....	NO
Prop W.....Limit officeholder accounts.....	NO
Prop X.....Misguided "reform"	NO
Prop Y.....Taxicab permits.....	NO
Prop Z.....Garbage bureaucracy.....	NO
Prop AA.....City officials ride public transit.....	YES
Prop BB.....Police puppet.....	NO

**Clip and take this slate to the polls.
Vote Tuesday, November 2nd, 7am-8pm.**



RE-ELECT CITY ATTORNEY **Louise Renne**

A forceful advocate of equal rights for lesbians and gay men. A leader in legal efforts to reimburse AIDS patients' medical expenses; extend medical benefits to domestic partners; uphold SF's strong gay rights law against legal challenges.

"I'll never forget that Louise Renne's opponent donated his services at no charge to defend the police captain who led the infamous and brutal police sweep of the Castro 5 years ago. Louise Renne clearly is more sensitive to the concerns of our community."
— FORMER POLICE COMMISSIONER GWENN CRAIG



RE-ELECT **Mary I. Callanan** CITY TREASURER

YES on A Proposition A will fund crucial repairs and seismic strengthening for 8 City cultural facilities, including the Aquarium, the Exploratorium, the historic Main Library (future Asian Art Museum), and neighborhood cultural centers. Prop A also allocates \$4 million for a new Gay and Lesbian Cultural/Performing Arts Center and Museum.



YES on C

"Proposition C will protect vital city services, including health care, from drastic cutbacks. It's a painless way to prevent disaster to San Francisco's quality of life."

— SUPERVISOR CAROLE MIGDEN



YES on K

"Proposition K will hold San Francisco officials to the highest ethical standards and stop the City Hall shenanigans that divert attention from the real issues, like health care and jobs."

— SUPERVISOR KEVIN SHELLEY

YES on L, M & N

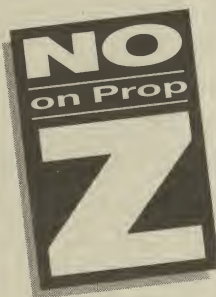
Government reform and efficiency package to save money and improve services.

NO on V

Stop Jordan's cruel and ineffectual attack on welfare recipients and PWAs.

NO on X

Misguided "reform" that would enable only the rich to hold public office.



STOP GOVERNMENT WASTE:

Vote NO on Quentin Kopp's Garbage Bureaucracy.

- Prop Z would replace a non-political rate board with a new "Garbage Commission," creating a new, costly and wasteful bureaucracy.
- Prop Z could result in higher garbage rates, lower quality service and a loss of local jobs.
- Prop Z does nothing to improve San Francisco's recycling services.

"We urge you to vote NO on Prop Z."

- Sierra Club & San Francisco League of Conservation Voters
- Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
- Supervisors Carole Migden & Susan Leal
- School Board Members Tom Ammiano & Angie Fa

"Since 1972 the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club has recommended candidates and issues after a thorough and open evaluation process. The issues in this election are important, and Frank Jordan and Quentin Kopp are counting on low voter turnout to advance their conservative political agenda. Don't let them get away with it. Your vote is your power. Use it!"

— MATTHEW ROTHSCCHILD, President.

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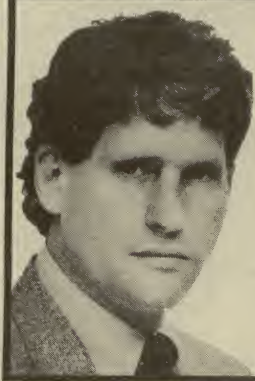
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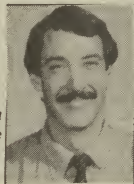
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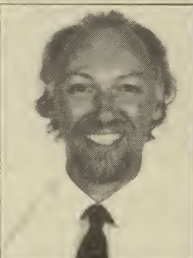
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Community News

S.F. D.A. To Take Kalouche Murder Trial to Grand Jury

by Dennis Conkin

The San Francisco District Attorney's office will seek to have the accused murderer of Mark Stadlerman, a gay man killed ten months ago, indicted by the San Francisco Grand Jury to get the case to trial, bypassing the normal preliminary hearing stage.

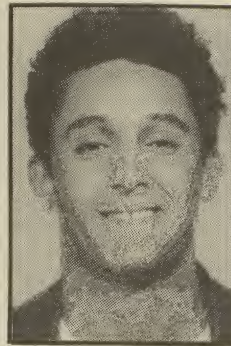
Stadlerman, 52, was found dead of multiple stab wounds in his ransacked Larkin Street apartment last December 10. He had last been seen alive on Thanksgiving, 1992.

Abdel Kadir Kalouche, 22, a native of France who resided in the United States on a valid passport, was arrested and charged with the murder on December 28, 1992, in Los Angeles.

Kalouche, a former employee of the QT Bar on Polk Street, performer in gay porn films, and onetime erotic dancer at the Campus Theatre, remains in custody after pleading not guilty to homicide charges earlier this year, according to Assistant District Attorney Peter Cling.

"The case is not set for trial yet. It hasn't gone to preliminary hearing. It was on the calendar for a preliminary hearing last week, but the attorney appointed for Kalouche made some statements that he wanted to do more investigation," Cling told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

A preliminary hearing is held before a judge, who determines whether there is enough evidence to support a



Former porn star and alleged murderer Abdel Kadir Kalouche.

Superior Court trial on the facts. If there is enough evidence, the case is sent for the setting of a trial date.

An alternative, when there are procedural delays, is to go to the county Grand Jury to have the accused indicted — in which case the suspect is re-arrested and the case moves immediately to Superior Court.

"It seems to be languishing. The case is not moving forward — and for no good reason as far as I can see — so I'm taking the case to the grand jury to get an indictment," Cling said.

Other assault arrests

Kalouche was represented by the Office of the Public Defender for several months

following his arrest and extradition from Los Angeles, but the county department had a conflict of interest in the case and an outside lawyer was appointed.

The Public Defender is required to recuse itself in cases when it has represented other people involved in the case in prior legal matters.

Cling declined to discuss the facts of the case, except to say that Kalouche has also been charged with assaults on other individuals, in addition to the murder of Stadlerman.

"I make it a point of not discussing the facts of the case in the media. That's not unique to this case," he told the *B.A.R.*

"If we can get the case to the Grand Jury some time next month, we'll probably get a date set in mid-February. A lot of that depends on what sort of case the defense makes," Cling said.

Stadlerman was the part time residential manager of the six-story apartment building at 550 Larkin, where he was found dead.

According to homicide inspectors, robbery may have been the motive in the murder, because Kalouche had attempted to sell some household property belonging to Stadlerman after the killing.

Murder in the commission of a robbery is a "special circumstance murder" — and suspects convicted of the crime can be given the death penalty. ▼

Sticker Shocker!

by Dennis Conkin

A vicious hate sticker targeting African-American, bisexuals, and intravenous drug users made its ugly appearance in the Financial District over the weekend.

The green "crack 'n' peel" sticker is similar in design to those sometimes plastered by AIDS and gay activists, but the message isn't "Glamorize, Don't Militarize" or "ACT UP/Fight back/Stop AIDS!"

The message this time is "Don't Catch AIDS! Don't have sex with

1. intravenous drug abusers
2. bisexuals
3. blacks (heterosexual blacks are 14 times as likely as Whites to be AIDS carriers.)"

The sticker is produced by a group called the National Alliance, which lists its address as P.O. Box 90, Hillsboro, West Virginia. The telephone number on the sticker is (304) 653-4600.

Callers to the phone number receive a hate-filled message, sponsored by the National Alliance and National Vanguard Bookstore.

"Let me ask you a question, think back to the attack on the Branch Davidian Church in February 1993," the message begins. "If the residents had been, say, members of Jesse Jackson's

Rainbow Coalition, or ... a group of homosexuals. Would the government have attacked in those cases?"

"Certainly not," the anonymous voice concludes. "For minority and homosexual activists are sacred and immune from criticism in the New World Order."

Anti-Semitic, too

The hate message goes on to state that superstar Michael Jackson, the subject of recent allegations of child molestation, is receiving special treatment — because he's benefiting from the "best guidance and technical assistance that Jewish money can buy."

The hate line message claims that if actor Clint Eastwood had been accused of sleeping with little girls, he would have received different treatment. Eastwood's agent at the William Morris Agency in Los Angeles has been advised of the message and is reportedly outraged, but was not available to comment to the *B.A.R.*

The message then goes to to complain about "anti-white agitators," lambastes the mass media, and concludes with more of the anti-gay, anti-black, anti-Jewish diatribe.

"It's so vitriolic," said James McCawley, who brought the stickers to the attention of the *B.A.R.* "I was

outraged — and even more so when I called the phone number. It's just amazing that anyone would try to pull that kind of stuff in San Francisco," he said.

McCawley noticed four of the stickers — and a friend of his noticed five — all within a two-block radius of the Montgomery Street Bart Station on Monday, October 25.

"It's a sign that we have a lot more work and education to do," he said.

AIDS service providers are angered by the sticker's message of hate and by its incorrect information. "I find it sad and disgusting that in 1993 in America — much less right here in San Francisco — that this kind of hate mongering is going on," said Dave Ford, a spokesperson for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "Obviously the information on the sticker is absolutely wrong, and we and other AIDS service providers in San Francisco and nationally have worked very hard to let people know they can protect themselves from HIV by using a condom during sex, and by making informed decisions about risk reduction."

At the end of the two-minute message, callers are invited to leave a message of response. Once again, that telephone number is (304) 653-4600. ▼

Paula's Clubhouse Is Kaput — Now What?

by Stephanie Rosenbaum

Say good-bye to Paula's Clubhouse.

Paula's Clubhouse was home to clubs like the Satellite Room Cabaret, the 99-Cent Video Festival, the anything-goes dance club Junk, the immortal performance venue Klubstitute, Wednesday's Faster Pussycat, and more.

Faster Pussycat, the oldest of the clubs at Paula's, paved the way for a new mix of drag, poetry, punk music, tattoos, strip shows, weird Americana bands like the Del Rubios, performance art, African tribal music, junk-style silly disco, and comedy. It all blended into a new alternative gay and lesbian scene in Paula's Clubhouse's inimitable style.

There won't be a final party.

Paula's Clubhouse had recently converted to an "all-queer seven days a week" format. Where else could you catch Riot Grrls? Watch the birth of butch punk rockers Tribe 8?

In San Francisco's nightclub world, the party-loving public is fickle. Club longevity is not necessarily a virtue. Everyone wants to see and be seen at what's-hot-and-happening-now, no matter how much fun they had at last

week's big thing.

Remember Xixax, Wet, Girdome, or Royce? Cyclops? Carefree? How about Bedrock or Eve? Club memories run short, and tastes are capricious. Club nights come and go, ghostly echoes of voice mail trailing behind them like yesterday's perfume.

But Paula's Clubhouse, at 3160 16th, closed because of other reasons.

99-Cent Video Festival promoter and Paula's Clubhouse bartender Jeffrey Winter and the other club promoters were told that the business had been put up for sale, but they could still run their clubs until November 24. All of the club promoters had booked their programs accordingly.

Not surprisingly, the Monday, October 18 closure of the space caught them off-guard. "I already had a band booked for Wednesday," said the DJ and promoter of Faster Pussycat, Downtown Donna, when a phone call from Paula Sabatelli, who owned the Paula's Clubhouse liquor license/business, tipped her off to the club's imminent closure. "I am out of money because I promised certain bands guarantees, and I owe a lot of printing money on handbills and ads. There is no way I can recoup my funds on that," said Downtown

Donna.

What was not immediately known was whether the business was sold, or Sabatelli was evicted for not paying the rent. Although Sabatelli owned the business, she did not own the building that housed the business. Downtown Donna took action. "I know Sabatelli was evicted for not paying rent. I called the landlord myself," she said.

Winter found out the end of the Paula's Clubhouse scene the hard way — he was going to work and found the locks had been changed.

The future of the increasingly popular Video Festival, Faster Pussycat, and the polymorphously perverse Junk and Klubstitute remains uncertain. The individual club promoters are currently searching for alternative venues, but many bar owners are not interested in a young, punky crowd.

According to some clubhouse denizens, club owners think the alternative crowd won't buy drinks and are afraid of their places getting trashed. Some straight alternative venues do not want to attract the lesbian and gay queer/punk crowds. Downtown Donna is selective about her venues as well: "I don't want to have my club at any place that isn't safe or has an extensive history of gay bash-



The late, lamented Paula's Clubhouse at the corner of 16th and Albion in the Mission. (Photo: Judi Parks)

ing."

Downtown Donna has found it harder finding weekend space for the women's clubs because women don't drink as much as men do, so the bars can't make as much money. Yet there are women's clubs that have had regular weekend venues, like MT Productions' Girl Spot. "It's a more conservative crowd at the Girl Spot than Faster Pussycat," said a Girl Spot regular to this reporter. "The Girl Spot women are more my type," she hastened to add.

Unfortunately, women and

men who looked forward to showing off their anything-but-conservative looks at Paula's Clubhouse will have to keep their tattoos, polyester, bell bottoms, and bad drag outfits under wraps for a while until the now-homeless alternative-scene clubs find new venues.

Answers in the bar business often do come down to simple economics. Downtown Donna explained, "The majority of that alternative queer punk crowd doesn't have money, and they drink water." ▼

Senior Safety Program Threatened

by Zwiil Phickler

A San Francisco gay man who's been working with the city's Senior Escort Program says he is concerned about local budget cuts that may harm senior citizens of all sexual orientations.

Ken Stephens, a civilian employee of the San Francisco Police Department for almost 15 years, averted a purse-snatching at the Webster Street Safeway on Thursday, October 21, with the help of a grocery clerk. Stephens, who has been escorting seniors to and from bus stops and their chores as part of the City's Senior Escort Program, says the attempted crime against the elderly woman he escorted is evidence that the program is necessary, and that budget cuts could harm the program and risk the safety of elders.

"We work with older gay and lesbian people," he said. "Mayor Jordan wants to cut it down, and hire contract outside employees." Stephens

says this is a wasteful measure. The area he patrols is known for several purse-snatchings a week, and the program's volunteers are working hard to prevent them.

Somewhat surprisingly, statistics show that elderly gays and lesbians are not often victims of reported anti-gay violence crimes, at least in San Francisco. "I don't think I've ever seen one [report of a gay bashing victim] over 50 in the four months I've been here," said Terry Person, program director of Community United Against Violence, adding, "It's usually younger folks in their twenties to forties who are gay bashed."

Person told the B.A.R. that those who commit anti-gay violence are also, historically speaking, young — and getting younger. "Last year, the average perpetrator's age was 19, and this year it may be 17," she said. "Lately we've been seeing a lot more 13-year-olds." ▼

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Community News



Limousine Lovely

A Baby Jane look-alike makes an auspicious entrance at the Muscle System's "Queen of Denial" Halloween party this past Saturday.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Gay Weightlifters Act Up

by Roxxie Rosen

While growing up, San Francisco gay weightlifter Ben Brody was growing up, he was harassed in gym classes. Brody, who started his iron pumping hobby as an adult, was less beefy and muscular as a youth, and as he asked the *Bay Area Reporter* rhetorically, "Weren't most of us harassed?"

"When I was called, 'fagot,' I would cower," he recalled. "And I was called 'fagot' a lot."

But Brody and other weightlifters at the Central YMCA didn't cower Thursday night, September 30, when an unidentified day-pass free-weight room visitor began harassing and insulting gay male weightlifters. The gay men stood up to the homophobic, and eventually forced him to leave the Y. Brody said, "We let him know that his macho behavior would not be tolerated."

The homophobic man began his harassment in the elevator, according to witnesses. When he entered the weight-room-bound elevator, he glared at a gay weightlifter who, feeling uncomfortable, asked him, "What are you staring at?"

The man's response to the weightlifter was a hostile, "You fucking faggot..."

When the elevator ride ended, the gay man alerted

others about the homophobic. Meanwhile, he'd begun harassing other gay weightlifters. "At first we couldn't believe there was a homophobic in the gym, because it is so gay," said weightlifter Jeff Farris, who was also approached by the man.

Farris was working out with his regular workout partner Mike Trempert, when the homophobic approached and asked Farris and Trempert if they were brothers. When the two, who are close friends, said they were not brothers, the man responded, "Then you are sick."

Farris and Brody recalled the man announced to the entire room, "I am French and you are sick," and, "At least I am a real man."

Straights were angry, too

The homophobic man didn't seem to understand he was in a predominantly gay gym. When he began his barrage of insults, he turned to others in the room, apparently expecting support for his homophobia. "The Central Y was considered one of the original gay gyms, but now I'd say it's probably 75-80 percent gay," said Brody, who found all the weightlifters, gay and straight, stuck together. Brody explained, "The straight people there were just as outraged and angry."

A group of 20 gay men

and sympathetic straights surrounded the homophobic and confronted him. Brody said, "The reaction was like a 'spontaneous direct action.' One person alone might not have stood up to him but everybody was enraged." Farris said, "By then he'd been obnoxious for a good hour or so, and the reason most people didn't say anything sooner was because the guy was so big."

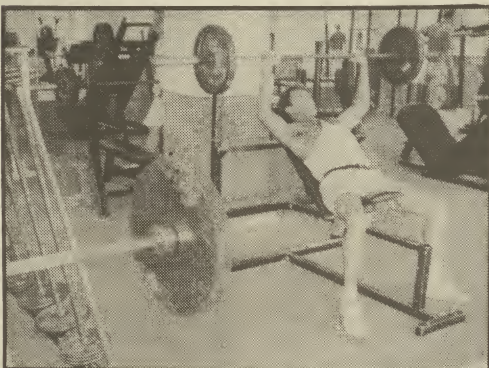
The weightlifters drew into a crowd circling the man, and some told him he shouldn't be there if he felt so uncomfortable around gays. "People said, if that's the way you feel about gays, then what are you doing in San Francisco," Farris recalled.

"By that time, he [the homophobic] was ready to fight; we all were," said Brody. Farris said, "Somebody had called downstairs," and Central Y management, alerted to the problem, sent an employee to diffuse the situation. The employee escorted the man out. Brody recalled, "Everybody applauded when he left."

Amey Weitz, the YMCA's San Francisco's Director of Communications, said the situation was handled in a business-as-usual fashion. She told the *B.A.R.* that the Central Y treated the situation exactly as they would have handled any instance of inappropriate behavior.

Yet this was an unusual occasion to the weightlifters involved, like Brody and Farris. Farris described the event as "a complete reversal of what most people experience in their lives. We were not going to take it."

Since harassment of gay men in gyms and the macho world of sports is commonplace in many parts of the country, especially cities with smaller gay populations than San Francisco, Brody felt the spontaneous group response to anti-gay harassment was a breath of fresh air. Brody said, "Especially for some of us involved, who were a little older — we work out because we want to feel strong. And the nice thing was that we were strong, and we were united." ▼



The weight room at the Central YMCA, where gays and straights banded together to eject a homophobic.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Health & Community

ACT UP Golden Gate Tuesdays, 7pm. 584B Castro. Discuss treatment issues, and prepare for the Oct. 29 massive Day of the Dead demonstration in Sacramento, with a political funeral. 252-9200.

AIDS/HIV Nightline Seeks volunteers to staff phones. Call Rolph or Dave at 752-4866.

Alternative Alcohol Problem Fellowship Tuesdays, 8-9:30pm. 398-6594.

Bay Area Young Positives HIV support group for young people of color. Weekly meetings, activities. Every Wednesday, 7pm. 25 Van Ness, 5th fl. 923-0460.

Brothers Network (Bay Area HIV Support & Education Services) Drop-in support groups, closed groups as well. 625 O'Farrell. 749-6714.

Cable Positive Assistance fund for people in the cable industry living with HIV/AIDS. 1 (800) 378-AIDS.

Crossings Program Volunteer Training Provide emotional and practical support to PWAs in the Tenderloin, Mission and SoMa. Help out now. Trainings Oct. 30 & Nov. 6 & 7. Darnell at Shanti: 777-2273.

Francis of Assisi Community Subsidized housing facility for mobility-impaired and wheelchair users is now taking waiting list applications for housing. 621-4092 (TT 1-800-755-2929).

French-Speaking Social Group Meets the first Friday of each month. Donnez-vous 431-6414.

Gay A/PI Identity GAPA Men's Group on self-image meets Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm. Thru Nov. 23 in Berkeley. (510) 841-6224.

GLOE (Gay & Lesbian Outreach to Elders) Women Writers Group meets Nov. 1 & 15, at Operation Concern, 1853 Market. Marin Women's Support Group meets 1st & 3rd Sat. Betty: 479-6643. Men's Discovery Discussion Group Nov. 3. Call 626-7000.

Hearing Loss & Communication Classes for PWAs and PWHIV. Oct. 30. 9am-noon. Kaiser Permanente. 693-5870.

HIV+ Support & Education Programs Different groups for gay men, women, public education forums, couples, family & friends support group, and socials. All groups meet 6:30-8pm. Mondays & Tuesdays. 235 W. MacArthur Blvd., Room 530. 596-6337.

HIV Treatment Update Presented by Dr. Robert J. Frascino of Stanford Univ. Nov. 3, 7-8:30pm. Mission Neighborhood Health Center, 240 Shotwell at 16th. 431-3212.

LAVA Nominations Name outstanding lesbians worthy of recognition by Lesbians of Achievement, Vision & Action. Deadline Nov. 5. 495-5393.

LYRIC & LYFE Education/social group for the queer youth community. Tuesdays, 6-8pm, 1748 Market, Suite 201. 565-7681.

Luggage Show Entrees accepted for annual group art show. Deadline Nov. 1. 255-5971.

Mastering the Media Media Activist Training discussion and workshop with GLAAD and NGLTF. Led by Robert Bray. Learn advanced strategies for gay rights and issues. Nov. 6. 9am-6pm. First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin at Geary. 861-4588.

Oral History Project Gay & Lesbian Historical Society seeks new storytellers and interviewers. Bilingual Spanish speakers sought. 626-0980.

Project Inform Town Meeting Overview of HIV disease. Nov. 3. 7:30pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 558-9051.

Project Open Hand Volunteers always needed to serve and prepare meals for PWAs. For service and food, letter of diagnosis is all that's needed. 558-0600.

Sex and Love Addiction Free eight-week course in understanding the nature of these obsessions and how to develop healthy patterns of intimacy. Begins Oct 26, 6:30pm. Everett Middle School, 450 Church. 585-5150.

SF AIDS Foundation Seeks volunteers for its telephone hotline, specifically English-speaking and bilingual Filipino and Spanish operators. 864-5855, ext. 2051.

Self-Defense Classes Free and every Sunday, 3-4pm. Collingwood Park, 18th & Collingwood in the Castro. 985-7423.

Spectrum Lesbian and Gay Men's Support Groups 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., #12, San Anselmo. Also youth groups New Horizons and Rainbow's End meet Nov. 4.. 457-1115.

UCSF Positive Education Project Group program for HIV-positive gay men with 200 to 500 T-cell counts. Extended thru Dec. 1. Derek: 597-9141.

Van Transportation Program For PWAs and PWHIV in Alameda County for rides to and from health care appointments. (510) 655-3435.

Voices of Pride Sexual minority resource center offers support services to queer and questioning youth 23 and under. (510) 530-8529 or (415) 553-4026.

Women's Action Coalition Meets every Tuesday, 7:30pm, The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. (510) 869-2584.

Community News

Making All Partners Equal: Oakland D.P. Ordinance Gets Teeth

by Marghe Covino
Capitol Correspondent

Janis Callon, 31, an enterprising Oakland nurse, has launched a precedent-setting crusade to put real substance into that city's domestic partners ordinance.

Upon the dissolution of her two-year relationship, Callon discovered she would be subject to a city-mandated one percent real estate transfer tax when she attempted to purchase her ex-partner's share of the house they held in joint tenancy. "The transfer tax is like a local sales tax," Callon said, "but I found there are exemptions for married couples who divorce but no provision for those of us who qualify as domestic partners."

The Oakland ordinance, which was unanimously passed by the city council in 1992, states that "any two unrelated persons over the age of 18 regardless of gender who share a household and living expenses qualify as a domestic partnership."

"The ordinance officially states that the concept of family has changed and allows city employees to share benefits," Callon said, "so I saw no reason not to challenge the transfer tax issue — after all, it's a substantial amount of money when you consider the cost of homes."



Lesbian nurse Janis Callon is challenging Oakland's transfer tax law as regards domestic partners. (Photo: Judi Parks)

Callon then looked up the Oakland anti-discrimination ordinance, which was passed in 1984 and which prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, and real estate transactions. She went before the tax board and filed for a personal one-time exemption to take care of her immediate problem, but then asked her city councilmember to amend the city transfer tax to include domestic partners. The finance committee of the city council has the matter under

consideration and is expected to recommend passage to the city council.

Oakland is not the only Bay Area city to address domestic partner inequities: San Francisco Supervisors Carole Migden and Kevin Shelley and City Controller Ed Harrington have also vowed to improve the City's domestic partnership laws. The root of the San Francisco problem is related to retirement benefits, not property taxes. ▼

HARVEY MILK

LESBIAN/GAY/BISEXUAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB

ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS, NOVEMBER 2, 1993

RE-ELECT CITY ATTORNEY Louise Renne

STATE PROPOSITIONS

Prop 168	Affordable rental housing	YES
Prop 169	Budget implementation	YES
Prop 170	School bonds	YES
Prop 171	Property tax transfer	YES
Prop 172	Public safety funds	YES
Prop 173	Housing & jobs investment	YES
Prop 174	School vouchers	NO

SAN FRANCISCO PROPOSITIONS

Prop A	Fund Lesbian/Gay Cultural Center.....	YES
Prop B	Street & traffic improvements	YES
Prop C	Save city services	YES
Prop D	Early retirement	YES
Prop E	Pension benefits	YES
Prop F	Retirement system changes	—
Prop G	Wage freeze	YES
Prop H	Lease financing	YES
Prop I	Support public health	YES
Prop J	City funds management	YES
Prop K	Ethics Commission	YES
Prop L	Streamline personnel management	YES
Prop M	Better Muni service	YES
Prop N	Charter reform — now!	YES
Prop O	Board Committee meetings	YES
Prop P	Supervisors' meetings	YES
Prop Q	Purchasing procedures	YES
Prop R	Retirement Board	YES
Prop S	Fine Arts Museums	YES
Prop T	Deputy fire chiefs	YES
Prop U	Election procedures	YES
Prop V	Phony welfare "reform"	NO
Prop W	Limit officeholder accounts	NO
Prop X	Ban slush funds	YES
Prop Y	Taxicab permits	NO
Prop Z	Stop government waste	NO
Prop AA	City officials ride Muni	YES
Prop BB	Police officer's puppet	NO

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BAY AREA REPORTER OPEN FORUM

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Editorial

Proposition 174: The Worst Idea We've Ever Heard

The idea behind the state ballot measure known as Proposition 174 is so bad we scarcely know where to begin to dissect it.

For those who are unfamiliar with the proposal, it goes like this: parents who don't want their kids sent to public school would get a voucher, approximately equal to their share of taxes that would go to the public system, that they could use to offset the cost of tuition to a private school. And for those who can't find even a private school they like, there is a provision that allows anyone who can gather together two dozen kids or so to start one!

Sure, we know the public schools are a mess, but Prop 174 isn't out to fix that problem. What it is trying to do is funnel some largesse to parochial schools, in violation of the principle of separation of church and state. Considering that religious institutions already shirk their fair share of taxation, we think it's pretty greedy of their supporters to try to prop up church schools at such an enormous cost to the rest of us.

Schools are run down, yes, and textbooks are generally old and supplies are short: not because, as Prop 174 proponents would have you believe, administrators do not care. The system is falling apart because of "deferred maintenance," a concept introduced when Reagan gave that tax break to his rich friends. At the time we were told that America's infrastructure (of which schools are a part) could wait for tax money but rich people couldn't. Eventually, we were expected to believe, the rich would spend so much that money would trickle down and the country would have buckets to spend on repairing the damage incurred during the "deferred" period.

Obviously, that didn't happen. The rich got richer, the poor got poorer, and the schools got screwed. Worse, the school kids got screwed.

Now, the same right wing forces that were so adamant about giving that money away is protesting the loudest about the current condition of the schools, saying Prop 174 is the only possible way to repair them. (Not that they genuinely care, that much is clear. The whole thing is just a shameless sham that has nothing to do with educational improvements.) And once again, those who scream the loudest about family values are willing to sacrifice their kids — the most helpless members of those families — so the elders can get a little more political power. It's disgusting.

For those readers who may still be in favor of Prop 174, we make the following suggestion: try it out elsewhere first.

In other words, since the 911 system is also in disrepair, why don't you try to set up a voucher system to buy yourself your own goddam police and fire departments? And when your house is on fire, call that number and see how well it works.

But leave our education system — the only remaining vestige of any official U.S. statement of concern about its children — alone.

Vote no on Proposition 174, or suffer the consequences when those kids grow up: uneducated, their share of money already spent by this generation, implicitly told they are valueless. Angry.

That is called getting what you pay for.

B.A.R. Endorsements

City Attorney
Louise Renne

★★★

City Treasurer
Mary Callanan

CITY PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION "A" No Position Cultural Facilities Improvement Plan

We have no objections to the Asian Art Museum moving into the old library building. We are concerned about the add-ons to this proposal: it seems that someone has decided to give everyone a slice of the pie. If that is to be the case, how come the gay community only gets about four percent of all the monies for a Cultural Center that does not even exist on the drawing board? We are also concerned about who is raising all the money for a proposition that is being spearheaded by the outrageously expensive campaign firm of Clint Reilly. We can't really get behind this \$160,000,000 boondoggle. You have to add the interest on these bonds (\$98 million plus approximately \$60 million interest): we are not comfortable with this one.

PROPOSITION "B" VOTE NO Street and Traffic Bonds

Once again the city does no preventive maintenance and when the streets become a mess, they come after the voters to try and coerce us into pissing more money away in an overblown bureaucracy. The true cost of these bonds is \$110,840,000 million (\$69 million plus \$42,800,000 in interest). Proposition B—VOTE NO.

PROPOSITION "C" VOTE NO Sales Tax

The city is saying that if the state sales tax doesn't pass in the election, then we could not exist without the additional tax money. We believe that the board has finally started to grapple with our budget problems. Let it continue to cut and slash and learn to live within our means. On PROPOSITION C—VOTE NO.

PROPOSITION "D" VOTE YES Police and Fire—Early Retirement

This would increase the official time served by two years, to encourage those persons close to retirement to do so during 1994. It would help to fill upper slots with newer officers and would help to phase out some of those persons with other pensions. New personnel don't have the same sweetheart deal. For PROPOSITION D—VOTE YES. It makes sense.

PROPOSITION "E" VOTE YES Spousal Pension Benefits

This is a good housekeeping measure, and it also brings San Francisco's women employees into the 21st century. This proposition also removes some of the sexist wording from the existing charter. We believe in this proposition. VOTE YES on E.

PROPOSITION "F" VOTE YES Police and Fire Retirement Benefit Notification

This would allow the board with a majority vote (eight members), to transfer the police and firefighters from the costlier city's retirement program to the better managed CAL PERS. This could be a win-win situation for the city if enacted. We urge a YES Vote on PROPOSITION F.

PROPOSITION "G" VOTE YES Wage Freeze

This would allow those employees who did not opt for a wage freeze in 1991-92 to negotiate now for dental coverage and two additional days off each year for the next two years — in return for accepting this year's wage freeze. It will bring all city employees into the same rules and regulations. VOTE YES on PROPOSITION G.

PROPOSITION "H" VOTE YES Radio Communication Lease Financing

This proposition would enable the city to lease a badly-needed radio system to join all of our emergency services under one system. As it is now, the police, fire, and paramedics can't communicate with each other. The current system is so old you can't find replacement parts for most of it. We urge you to VOTE YES on PROPOSITION H.

PROPOSITION "I" VOTE YES Health Department Lease Financing

The D.P.H. under this proposal could request the board to authorize leases to pay for equipment, or for the construction or improvement of any building used by D.P.H. without prior voter approval. The total principal owed could not exceed \$20 million, increased five percent annually. This limit would be in addition to the current limit on leases. VOTE YES on PROPOSITION I.



PROPOSITION "J" VOTE YES Cash Management

This proposition makes a technical change to the charter, to help modernize the way the city does business. It does not give the board more power and it doesn't detract from the mayor's authority. The board must still abide by the budget. VOTE YES on J.

PROPOSITION "K" VOTE NO Ethics Commission

There are sufficient safeguards built into the city charter to handle this question of ethics. We don't need a new political commission elected by politicians. We have some problems with the way conflict of interest laws are overlooked. We don't believe this is the answer. VOTE NO on PROPOSITION K.

(Continued on page 30)

FEATURES EDITOR Roxie Rosen ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR Patrick Hotell CALENDAR LISTINGS EDITOR Jim Provenzano	CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Dianne Aaronson, Rene M. Astudillo, Noreen C. Barnes, John Blanco, Michael C. Botkin, Nancy Boutillier, Philip Campbell, Dennis Conkin, Jim Coughenour, M.R. Covino, Tim Farrell, Michael Flanagan, Mark Freeman, Roberto Friedman, Loralie Frohman, Anthony N. Hauser, Eric Hellrhan, Chad Jones, John F. Karr, Jeffery Kennedy, I.A. Kisselman, Karl Bruce Knapper, Ron Lazar, Elliott Linwood, Jason Lorber, Mr. Marcus, Jerry Metzker, Karen Ocam, Orland Outland, Deborah Peifer, Rachel Pepper, Jim Provenzano, Jeremy Quittner, Mary Richards, John Ross, Doug Seto, Marv. Shaw, Rick Thoman, Paul Thomason, Dick Walters, Lauren Ward	A division of Benro Enterprises, Inc. Copyright ©1993 Published weekly, Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit or reject any advertisement which the publisher believes is in poor taste or which advertises illegal items which might result in legal action against Bay Area Reporter. Ads will not be rejected solely on the basis of politics, philosophy, religion, race, age, or sexual preference. Advertising rates are available on request. Our list of subscribers and advertisers is confidential and is not sold. The sexual orientation of advertisers, photographers, and writers published herein is neither inferred nor implied. We are not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or artwork.
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Letters

Small-Minded Detractors

Some observations about Bruce Mirken's "Duesberg in Wonderland" piece: Mirken saw fit to almost exclusively quote from Bob Guccione, Jr.'s *Spin* interview with Duesberg to summarily dismiss Dr. Duesberg's hypotheses regarding HIV-AIDS. Of course, he selected his quotes with great care to support his puerile tone.

I quote the Guccione piece too: "Dr. Peter Duesberg, professor of molecular biology at the University of California, Berkeley, [is] one of the world's leading experts on retroviruses, a field he helped pioneer." Further, *Spin* notes that "Duesberg's credentials are impeccable. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a recipient of an Outstanding Investigative Grant from the National Institutes of Health in 1985. He was candidate for the Nobel Prize for his work in discovering oncogenes, thought to be a cause of cancer, in viruses. But he derailed his chances of winning when he cautioned that his findings did not prove that there were cancer genes in cells as was popularly theorized at the time (and still an unproven theory). An insane move for a scientist's career but an exemplary act of ethics."

Well! Now we know who Dr. Duesberg is; just who in God's name does Mr. Mirken think he is? A bona fide wise guy for sure, who, like most wise guys, employs arrogance to cover up (or in this instance to telegraph) his own ignorance. The B.A.R. should be ashamed of itself for printing such garbage.

I don't think Dr. Duesberg needs any defense here. When the story is finally told (and that will include the atrocities committed by the AZT pushers), I'm afraid Dr. Duesberg will be able to say "I told you so." Somehow, I don't think he'll stoop as low as his small-minded detractors. If Bruce Mirken weren't such a coward, he could have asked to interview Dr. Duesberg himself; the man is in Berkeley, after all. That's obviously not Bruce's style; Big Bad Bruce is more at home executing a drive-by character assassination.

I challenge Bruce to find "scientifically based" data to prove that AIDS is sexually transmitted. Think what that might mean if it's not; you're not just a filthy abomination after all. You've simply been had.

Barry Kittleson
San Francisco

Bruce Mirken responds: *Typical of Duesbergites I've encountered, Mr. Kittleson makes no effort to refute any of the factual statements in my article, nor does he cite any other data to support his position — except to point out that Professor Duesberg is a respected molecular biologist.*

Well, he certainly is. But then, so are lots of other scientists who think Duesberg is nuts. Take your pick.

And true, I'm not a scientist; I'm a reporter. As such, I'm in the habit of checking my facts before committing them to print. But please, Mr. Kittleson, don't take my word for it. Go to the nearest medical library (UC San Francisco's is excellent) and look up the studies referred to in the article and then pick any three statements you like from the *Spin* interview and attempt to verify them. Judge for yourself if Duesberg is being straight with the facts. In the process, you should come across plenty of data to answer your challenge about AIDS being sexually transmitted.

And by the way, I have tried to interview Duesberg. He didn't return my calls.

Unruffling Leather Feathers

The following letter was sent to Mr. Terry Thompson, manager, SF Eagle Bar, San Francisco:

First of all, let me begin by commending you and your staff for all the hard work that you do for the various charities, organizations, clubs and titleholders who are allowed to come through the doors of the SF-Eagle to hold fundraising events. Truly, the vast numbers of us doing so could be staggering. That you are able to accommodate as many of us as you do, shows your commitment to our community. That such a large number of benefit events are for the AIDS Emergency Fund gratifies me and everyone else who work so hard for the Fund.

Regarding Leatherwalk '93, I too agree that hard feelings and unfounded innuendo clouded an otherwise outstanding and successful fundraising event. It appears that a lack of complete communication on both our parts resulted in discernably different viewpoints from yourself and some of the leatherwalkers.

Not wishing to step on anyone's toes next year, consider this letter my formal request to "book" the solid date of Sept. 18, 1994, 3-6 p.m., and set aside for use by the A.E.F. so that we may produce a beer/soda bust around the arrival of Leatherwalk '94 and for the auction of dinner dates and photographs of the 12 subjects on the 1995 Bare Chest/South of Market calendar produced by yourself to benefit the A.E.F.

Again, please accept my appreciation for all your efforts, considerations and sacrifices toward the betterment of our sisters and brothers in the community. If there is anything that I may do to improve communication between us, or to be of service in any way regarding fundraising events, please feel free to contact me.

Art Tomaszewski
San Francisco

Duesberg Damaging

There you go again. On page 18 of the Oct. 14 B.A.R., you and Bruce Mirken dedicate one whole page of more free publicity to Professor Peter Duesberg (or is it douchebag (?), as I have seen it written elsewhere). It seems the media just can't give this professor (boy, some professor) enough free publicity. I've seen him on *Helping Hands*, *Day One* with Forrest Sawyer and other TV shows. And there has been a river of ink spilled over him, much to his delight.

And yet, unbelievably, with all this journalistic intellect mobilized to give him free publicity, two obvious and crucial points have been overlooked. This would be amusing if the subject of AIDS were not so grim and serious. Mr. Duesberg's motives are so obvious and cheap. One of his motives is simply publicity. How this publicity is helping his career I am not yet clear on. Where would he be today without us? He would be just another unnoted university professor. Using gay males and AIDS, he has gained fame, spreading lies about how AIDS is transmitted. Isn't he practicing medicine without a license? He is using our suffering and tragedy in a kind of silly game, all the while just relishing the limelight he gets to bask in. He dismisses the HIV virus as the cause of AIDS. Would he be willing to go on prime time TV and inject a vial of healthy, functioning, veritable HIV virus into his bloodstream with the aim of monitoring the future results on his health to prove his point, namely that HIV does not cause AIDS? You can bet he would not. He says AIDS is caused by poppers, drugs, AZT and our depraved lifestyle. Apparently he has not observed that hundreds, perhaps thousands, of infants have been born with HIV from their mothers. When did they, as well as hemophiliac Ryan White who contracted HIV at 12 or 13, find time to lead this lifestyle?

Mr. Duesberg is using his prestige, position and power to try to topple the research establishment so that more gay males will get it. His motives are very immature, childish and selfish. He knows very well that in Africa, men and women get HIV in equal numbers and that non-gay people such as Ryan White, Kimberly Bergalis and thousands of infants who have gotten HIV are not gay. Yet he says it's a "gay disease." But he is achieving his aims. He is shrewd and calculating and anything but stupid. He is also a nasty, cruel liar who deserves a good kick in the ass.

John V. Marcellini
San Francisco

Ed. Note: It is the policy of the B.A.R. to ignore relatively harmless pranksters, but to investigate those who may be, as you put it, "a nasty, cruel liar who deserves a good kick in the ass." We are proud that some people who might otherwise have accepted Duesberg's theories have been given the other side of the story by Bruce Mirken.

We Abhor Prop. 174

As members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities, we are concerned at the low level of coverage and lack of discourse on Prop. 174, an upcoming California election initiative and its potential dangers.

Prop. 174 will directly impact our communities in the following ways:

(1) It would undermine the public educational system by redirecting over \$1.4 billion of public funds to private schools, 80 percent of which in this state are controlled by religious groups.

(2) These voucher schools would be permitted to discriminate against potential students because of sexual orientation, family structure, religion, gender, family income and mental and physical abilities, among other factors not specified.

(3) As the initiative is written, the voucher schools would not be accountable to anyone for their uses of public funds, for curriculum standards or for the values they would teach.

(4) In effect, it opens the door to an era that would see more segregation, intolerance and inequity, promoting an insidious atmosphere that would create more confusion among our youth — when teen suicide is already alarmingly on the rise nationwide.

What would become of the 10 percent of the student population now awakening and coming to terms with a sexuality that is different from that of the majority? Should not everyone's efforts be directed at encouraging sensitivity, tolerance, knowledge of diversity, equality, safety and a sense of community?

Should not our future leaders be educated to deal with the struggles our communities will certainly face? Should we not try to pave an easier, more humane way so that our youth does not have to pass through the same trials we had to endure and that some of us did not survive? Should we not promote our school system to support alternative families and to appreciate the diversity of all families?

To maintain our progress in securing and protecting civil rights for all, we cannot afford to be complacent and permit the educational process to be expropriated by religious zealots. We must VOTE NO on Proposition 174.

National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Bay Area
Gay Asian Pacific Alliance/Political Affairs
Committee, Transgender Nation, S.F.
Chapter B.A.N.G.L.E., American Legion
Alexander Hamilton Post No. 448

Life has its ups & downs

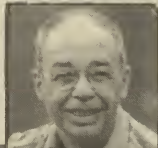
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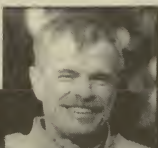


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Letters

Lantos A Liar

The following letter was sent to Congressman Tom Lantos, Washington, D.C.:

In reply to our concerns about federal legislation against gays in the military, you wrote (Aug. 2, 1993): "As you know, in the 102nd Congress I was one of 78 co-sponsors of HR 5208, which would have eliminated this reprehensible practice from all branches of our military, and my position clearly has not changed. I am determined to work with like-minded colleagues who feel that a nation committed to non-discrimination must have a military dedicated to the same values."

Unlike your like-minded Bay Area colleagues in Congress, you voted for the Nunn amendment to the Clinton-Aspin directive which was ultimately supported by the entire Joint Chief of Staff. In effect, you voted to reverse the intent of the administration's directive in the following ways:

1. Allowing the Secretary of Defense to reinstate questioning regarding sexual orientation when "necessary", thereby weakening the "don't ask" compromise.
2. Eliminating the Clinton requirement that military sexual misconduct policies be uniformly enforced, whether the conduct is heterosexual (tailhook) or homosexual.
3. Allowing witch hunts to continue because it creates an ambiguous "credible information" standard for investigations.
4. Adding a list of fifteen findings that reaffirm the pre-Clinton ban, including the ludicrous assertion (contrary to findings of Pentagon-authorized Rand and previous studies) that homosexuals "create an unacceptable risk to the high standards of morale, good order and discipline and unit cohesion."

That is what you voted for, Mr. Lantos, while our previous Representative Nancy Pelosi, from whose district we were redistricted, voted against the amendment. We are outraged. Clearly, you lied to us. You betrayed our trust. Your word is worthless. We will remember and you will be reminded of your betrayal by the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities when you seek re-election.

Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon
San Francisco

Tom's Turnabout

I was proud to sit in Congressman Tom Lantos' office when he agreed to be a co-sponsor of last year's gay and lesbian civil rights bill. At the same time, he said he would endorse Tom Nolan in his campaign for Congress in the 14th District.

I was astounded to read today that Lantos voted for an amendment that codifies in law the Department of Defense's discrimination policies against gay and lesbian members of the armed forces.

If Mr. Lantos wants to represent San Francisco as he claims to, then we had better let him know who his constituents are and how we feel or else he'll keep saying one thing and doing something else.

Call Tom Lantos (415) 342-0300 and tell him what you think.

Chuck Forester
San Francisco

Possessed

Regarding the recent article on James Spada's upcoming book on Bette Davis, I take offense at his comment that, compared to Miss Davis, Joan Crawford is forgotten. Surely someone like Mr. Spada should know this is hardly the case.

Aside from the unfortunate *Mommie Dearest* legend, please recall Miss Crawford also made a great number of films one could hardly write off as "forgotten!" Let me first mention the glaringly obvious *Mildred Pierce*, for which Miss Crawford deservedly won the Oscar as Best Actress of 1945. Keep in mind this film is a favorite of many film buffs into film noir, tight suspense dramas or just classic '40s films, not merely because Miss Crawford is its star.

Please also recall *Possessed* and *Sudden Fear* (for which she was awarded two more Best Actress nominations); *Grand Hotel*; *The Women*; *Strange Cargo* and *A Woman's Face*, to name a few more. I'd hardly call these fine films or their star, forgotten, Mr. Spada!

And if you think Miss Crawford's career vanished after *Baby Jane*, recall her moving performance as the desperate blind woman in the telenovela, *Night Gallery* (1969), directed by the presumably also forgotten Steven Spielberg. I suggest Mr. Spada keep his prejudices to himself if he fancies a new career as a "serious" author!

His dismissal of Miss Davis's anti-gay slurs as due to her proper New England background was pure bull. It certainly didn't prevent her from several rowdy, alcohol-ridden marriages to wife-beaters. Not to mention that extra-marital affair with Howard Hughes or the incident where one of her husbands died under very mysterious circumstances. More importantly, I would like to remind gay film fans that Joan Crawford openly embraced her gay fans and had the love and adoration of many well-known Hollywood gays, particularly actor William Haines. Miss Crawford helped Haines establish himself as a preeminent interior decorator after Hollywood gave him the homophobic boot. Please keep this in mind about the "forgotten" but still one and only, Joan Crawford.

AJC and BD Fan
San Francisco

Outland-ish Oversight

I am surprised that you let such a glaring misstatement of fact be printed in your newspaper as Orlando Outland's comments on SFLGDPCC changing the date of next year's Freedom Day for those who wish to attend "the New York parade on June 26."

The International March on the U.N. in Support of the Rights of Lesbian and Gay People, also known as Stonewall 25 (an event called by queer representatives of 30 different nations) can hardly be characterized as "the New York parade."

Rather than proving a supposed "kowtowing" (a racist slur, by the way) to the East Coast, Outland has just shown his own narrow San Francisco provincialism. I am extremely proud of our parade committee for joining this international celebration of queer history and pride.

I used to read "Out There" regularly, but if this is an example of how closely Outland checks his facts, I will be skipping it from now on.

Phil Hilton
San Francisco

Kudos to Kairos

An open letter to Kairos Support Group for Caregivers:

I would like to take some time to thank Gregg Tallman and the staff at Kairos House.

Their 8-week caregivers group, "Re-Kindle the Flame" was a great help. Even though the group did not solve all my problems, it helped a lot to talk with others going through the same feelings, fears and emotions. As an HIV-negative man taking care of my lover with AIDS, I would like to encourage all caregivers, positive or negative, to give Kairos a try. It helps a lot to be with people that care.

Thanks again, Kairos. See you at the November group.

Mark Manz
San Francisco

Absolute Confusion

While your periodical is read with some relish in our household, some editorials seem to be written under the influence of substances other than facts.

Your recent issue 41 under the editorial "Who Pays?" stated flat out that the Governor of California, Pete Wilson, voted to codify the military ban.

Since when was Governor Wilson granted the right to vote in the U.S. Senate, while still being Governor of California?

If you do respond to this question, it is hoped that your reply will not contain any reason that excuses your mistake with "heat of the moment", or "well I am sure he would have voted if he was in the Senate."

While editors have a right to a great deal of editorial license, they don't have the right to present absolute untruths.

William John Healey III
San Francisco

Ed. Note: What we said was that Wilson — who vetoed the needle exchange program, despite a \$400,000 study confirming the value of needle exchange programs — and Nunn and Les Aspin and the others who voted to codify the military ban in the Senate, despite the \$1.3 million Rand Study, were wasting money. We assume something nasty got into your relish.

Anal Bias

I want to thank reviewer Tom Bacchus for taking the time to view and give a written review in your Pornucopia column.

But do I detect a little anal top biased viewpoint, and an arrogant one at that?

For those of us who do cock worship voyeurism, the sight of some guy's chunky butt is the last thing we want to see.

Count yourself lucky that you only have to "fast forward" past the fist-fucking sequence. What clearly gets bulldozed over in gay erotica is the great number of men who are anal neutral and the great number who are outright anal negative and have to fast forward past the fucking anal crap or anal non-crap. What we need, of course, is a responsive porno industry, and honest labeling. That way I don't have to see your naked ass (Ugh) on screen and you don't see my gorgeous large cock swinging onscreen.

The Gay Pride flag has lotsa colors — we should know from lotsa, when we talk about various gay erotica.

Dick
San Francisco

Tom Bacchus responds: All body parts interest me. As to porn, your point of honest labeling is well taken and should be heeded by erotica manufacturers.

My views on sex are biased; yes. It must be safe, but to accuse me of anal top bias would truly make my bed partners laugh.

A butt is no better than a weiner, or vice versa, for after all, a top without a bottom is merely a man fucking a pillow.

Vote Tuesday, November 2!

A very low turnout is expected (meaning that most voters really don't give a damn about it) for next Tuesday's election day in California. However, in addition to a number of local issues to be settled by San Francisco voters, there are a couple of important statewide propositions that voters should be interested in.

Specifically, Prop. 172 is a statewide proposition that would extend the present one-half percent sales tax. Passage of the plan would, I am told, bring somewhere between \$12 million and \$15 million to San Francisco to be used for "public safety purposes" — i.e., the hiring of more police officers, possibly upgrading the Juvenile Center, etc. Most polls now show Prop. 172 passing statewide by a narrow margin. It has the support of both the Democratic and Republican parties, Governor Wilson, and most of the incumbent officeholders of both parties.

I'm not in the business of predicting elections, but I think you can safely put this one in the win column given that the most recent statewide Field Poll showed that among those voters most likely to vote on Tuesday, Prop. 172

Commentary

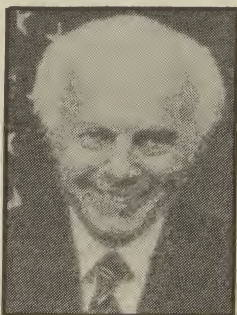
passed by a narrow margin (42 to 38 percent). Another poll released last week by the *Los Angeles Times* showed it winning by a 44-34 percent margin.

Prop. 174, the so-called "private school voucher" scheme, is quite another story, however. This proposition, one that could put control of public schools in the hands of people like the Christian fundamentalists, is looking at almost certain defeat. Prop. 172, in my personal opinion, deserves your vote, but Prop. 174 is a definite no!

Locally, incumbent City Attorney Louise Renne is being opposed by well-known attorney Neil Eisenberg, long a power in Democratic Party politics. While Renne seems to have garnered most of the big-name and political club endorsements (although Eisenberg is backed by Quentin Kopp, District Attorney Arlo Smith, Jack Molinari, Jose Medina, Carol Ruth Silver and others), Eisenberg is running a strong race. This one should be Renne's to lose. Both Renne and Eisenberg are friends of mine, and I'm making no recommendations in this one.

City Treasurer Mary Callanan is so much more qualified than her opponent that she will win in a walk.

I don't care a lot about most of the local propositions, though I'm voting for Prop. A because it includes funding for a lesbian/gay cultural center. Probably one of the silliest plans to make the ballot in years is Prop. BB, which would give some publicity-seeking police officer the right to use a puppet dressed as a cop while performing his duties. (Yes, folks, this one is up for a public vote, and now you know why the phrase "only in San Francisco" is so often used.) What the hell, vote as you please next Tuesday, but please vote!



Rep. Tom "Both Sides Now" Lantos.

People and Politics

The Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club is holding a reception commemorating the 15th anniversary of the assassination of Supervisor Harvey Milk at The Sutterfield Penthouse, 1483 Sutter, on November 18 (Milk actually died on November 27), 6-8 p.m. A donation of \$35 is requested, and the guest speaker will be Deputy Secretary of State Tony Miller, the openly gay candidate to replace California Secretary of State March Fong Eu. Call 567-5316 or 864-7788 for more information.

More than a few gays and lesbians in Representative Tom Lantos' district are wondering where the congressman really stands on gays/lesbians in the military. Trying to have it both ways, the congressman is claiming to be supportive of homosexuals in the military while at the same time quietly voting for the Meehan amendment (with additions courtesy of Sam Nunn), which was also supported by the anti-gay Joint Chiefs of Staff. I was never a fan of Tom Lantos, anyway. Hopefully, a more progressive candidate supportive of the gay and lesbian community will emerge next year in the Democratic primary against this guy.

And speaking of sorry political candidates, former Palm Springs Mayor Sonny Bono (you got it, babe, that Sonny Bono) is reportedly set to announce that he will run for lieutenant governor. Because of his name recognition, the Republicans will probably nominate him, which should make Gray Davis, the only announced Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor, a shoe-in (or is it *shoo-in*?) to replace Leo McCarthy.

In other statewide races next year, you can look for Republican Assemblymember Bill Jones (Fresno) to run for secretary of state, former GOP Representative Frank Riggs (Windsor) to try for controller, and Republican Assemblyman Chuck Quackenbush (San Jose) to run for insurance commissioner.

As for the Democrats, Board of Equalization Chair Brad Sherman has announced for controller, retiring state Senator David Roberti (Van Nuys) will most likely run for state treasurer; San Francisco D.A. Arlo Smith is favored by the Democrats to take on incumbent anti-gay Attorney General Dan Lungren in another go-around; and Deputy Secretary of State Tony Miller reportedly already has the support of outgoing Secretary of State March Fong

Eu (who will soon be appointed to an ambassadorship in the Far East).

If he wins, Miller would be the first openly gay person to win statewide office. Assemblywoman Jackie Speier (San Mateo) and Assemblywoman Gwen Moore (Los Angeles) are expected to battle Miller for the Democratic nomination. Incidentally, March Fong Eu's son, Matt Fong, is expected to be the Republican nominee for treasurer and will likely face either Roberti or Assemblyman Rusty Areias, the two likely Democrats seeking the job.

Meanwhile, the California Republican Assembly (these people manage to make Pete Wilson look like a moderate) passed a resolution at their recent board of directors meeting asking Wilson not to run for re-election. The conservative anti-Wilson group will probably enter former Assemblyman Tom McClintock against the governor in next year's GOP primary.

If you want to meet the president of the United States, you might get the chance if you attend the \$1,000-per-plate fundraiser for Dianne Feinstein at the Fairmont on November 19. The Prez will be the guest speaker; you can get tickets and info by calling 433-1333.

The annual AIDS Walk in Philadelphia last week drew 12,000 and raised \$625,000 for AIDS organizations in that city.

Homophobic televangelist Pat Robertson last week endorsed the Republican candidate for governor of Virginia in next Tuesday's election, and unfortunately, that candidate is said to be now leading her Democratic opponent in the polls.

With sisters like this: La Toya Jackson told the *Jane Whitney Show* audience that she thinks the public has "already convicted" her brother Michael as regards those sex-abuse allegations. Then the psychic hysteric went on to add, "As far as his sexual preference, he never had a girlfriend — ever."

Yale University is extending health benefits to the partners of gay faculty members, administrators, and managers. Yale, in New Haven, Conn., joins other leading universities — such as Stanford, Harvard, MIT, and the University of Chicago — in extending coverage to gay partners.

He's back! Former Vice President Dan Quayle, appearing at the dedication of the Dan Quayle Center and Museum (?) in Huntington, Indiana, last week, dropped hints all over the place that he wants to run for president in 1996. Quayle broke nearly nine months of virtual silence by using the occasion to criticize President Clinton's management of crises in Somalia (spell that one, Dan) and Haiti, and denounced as "a huge power grab" Clinton's health-care reform plan. He teased the home-town audience by saying that "today was dedication day for the museum. Announcement day will be later on." Then he told reporters, "If I do run, I'll run to win, and if I hold the office [of president], I think I will do a darn good job." Is this guy really serious?

All together now: Tuesday is Election Day; don't forget to vote. ▼

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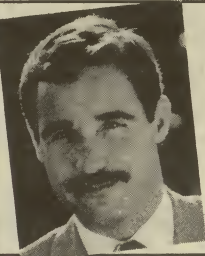


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An Old Time in the Hot Town...

by Rachel Pepper

An ex-lover visiting from freezing Toronto arrived a few days ago in sunny San Francisco. She's amazed by the weather here, and so am I, since just last week it was cold and rainy. Taking advantage of the warm temperatures and the fact that my motorcycle is actually running well, we packed a knapsack full of magazines and iced tea on Sunday and headed off to Baker Beach.

There were lots of naked fags there, a few dykes, and the usual assortment of gross straight-boy gawkers. Despite the heat, the water was bracingly cold under our feet, but a few brave children danced happily in the surf, seemingly unperturbed. Since we were too chicken to go in, we lay on the beach, took off our shirts, and let the sun stroke our bare bods. "Welcome to California," I said to Karen as

we rubbed on suntan lotion.

Sitting in the sand provided a great chance for me to loosen up, relax, and reflect on the events of the last few weeks. The city seems to be bustling with all sorts of political and social to-dos, some of which I've even managed to drag myself to and subsequently had the best time at.

One such event was the Sick and Twisted Players' production of *Texas Chainsaw 90210*, presented in "splatter-rama." Another was the opening night reception at the Castro Theatre for Frameline's program of "new queer cinema" entitled *Boys' Shorts*. The films were of varying quality — the best was Mark Christopher's *The Dead Boys' Club* — but the highlight of my evening was walking out with a new pair of Joe Boxers, courtesy of the evening's sponsor. I do love a freebie!

More chichi was the Founders Dinner for the Gay

and Lesbian Center, part of the new Main Library. Held on October 2, this was the queer community's largest fundraiser ever, aside from AIDS events. More than \$700,000 was raised, which organizers say will be used for the center's collections, furnishings, and equipment.

There were several rather amazing things about the

Commentary

evening, besides the amount of money raised. For one thing, it was amusing for folks like Betty and myself, attending courtesy of our employer, to hobnob with wealthy queers. I don't usually attend \$150-a-plate affairs, since I'd come out about 15 meals ahead by spending the same amount of money at my favorite Vietnamese dive, Tulans.

There we were, though, spiffed up and sipping champagne, surrounded by folks



Jewelle Gomez: clatter, clatter; chatter, chatter.

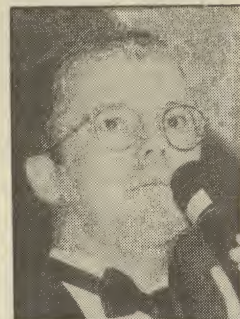
for whom giving a thousand dollars here and there to worthy causes is no big deal. One fellow even pledged \$100,000 that night to the center, and I resisted tracking him down later to ask if he'd like to pledge a couple more to another good cause: me!

The only excruciatingly painful part of the evening came when, due to various screwups, lesbian writer and new SF resident Jewelle Gomez was forced to give her articulate, moving speech right as dinner was served. Clatter, clatter went the plates, forks, and wineglasses as she began to speak. Chatter, chatter went the crowd as she continued. The saddest thing about this unfortunate, rude occurrence was that 20 minutes later, all the same folks who ignored Jewelle gave their rapt attention and a standing ovation to Andrew Sullivan, editor of the *New Republic*, whose speech was contrived, corny, and coy. Surely we can do better at welcoming Jewelle to town than that!

All that aside, however, the new library and the center are rapidly gaining momentum. Being a book freak as well as a periodical and zine archivist myself, I know I'll be there on opening day, which'll be sometime in 1996. The center's collection of queer films, research materials, books, magazines, and mementos will probably be the biggest and most comprehensive of any in the world.

Fundraising has been going very well, but money is still needed to make this place an international showcase. So if you've got a thousand to spare, you can have your name inscribed on the wall of the center's entrance way. Of course, smaller gifts are appreciated as well. Call 391-5582 if you're so inclined.

Other news from around this queer town? Clubs seem to be disappearing right before our very eyes, the sad-



Andrew Sullivan: contrived, corny, and coy.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

dest casualty being Paula's Queer Clubhouse on 16th Street. The building was just sold and is about to become a Latin sports bar. Now the clubs which inhabited it, including Faster Pussycat, Klubstute, and 99 Cent Queer Video, must look for other venues. Will underground clubs always be at the mercy of straight bar owners?

This weekend is Halloween, which means I once again have to decide if I'm going to create a costume to wear. Every year I think about it, then don't do it, but this year I may placate my maternal longings by dressing up as a preggio lesbo. I'll walk around with a pillow stuffed under my shirt, which hopefully will deter me from attempting the real thing for a year or two. This may or may not satisfy my baby-crazy hormones for about a day, but it'll at least be a costume. Pickles and ice cream, anyone? ▼

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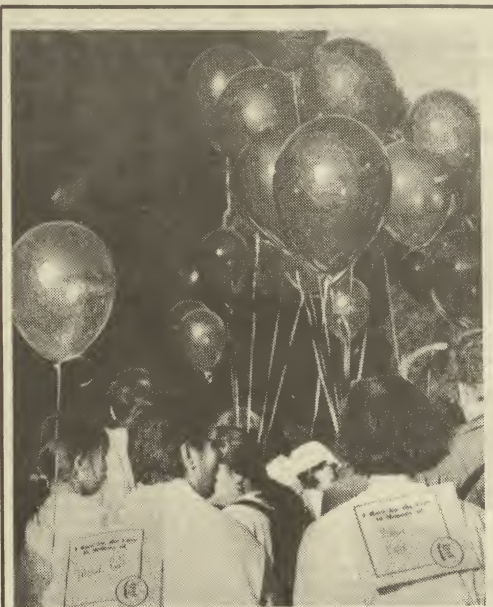
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In Memory Of . . .

Participants ran this past Sunday in the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's Race for the Cure. Taped to their backs were signs remembering friends lost to the disease.

(Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)



A tree grows on Polk Street in part due to the efforts of homeless clean team Frankie (left) and Johnny. (Photo: Doug Seto)

Faces in the Crowd — Frankie and Johnny Revisited

by Doug Seto

Frankie and Johnny scrub and tidy the block of Polk Street between Washington and Clay, in exchange for which, as the B.A.R. reported in August, the merchants on the block have been helping the gay homeless couple out. The future started looking up for them after that story, but unfortunately, things have recently taken a turn for the worse.

"Johnny's been looking really sick lately. I hope he isn't going to die," a friendly, green-eyed waitress at Bean's Cafe told the B.A.R. when asked about the pair. The owner of the Cafe, Pat, agreed with the waitress's assessment, adding, "I just saw Frankie down the street. Go down and find out what's going on."

It was true. Frankie was down the street — uncharacteristically alone. "Johnny just won't get out of bed," he moaned. Only after a call to Johnny, and a half hour wait, did he show up wearing a brave smile and purple lesions on his face. He didn't have them in August.

Even so, Johnny was upbeat. "Times are better than before," he said. "We don't live on the street anymore."

A man wearing round spectacles saw Johnny's face and turned away as he passed.

"Johnny's been visiting the hospital," Frankie said quietly.

"No I haven't, I've been working each night," Johnny insisted.

Frankie put his hand on Johnny's shoulder. "Cut the bullshit," he said.

"The police don't care"

Frankie walked to a liquor store and came back with a pack of generic cigarettes for Johnny. While he returned, the two scrutinized the sidewalk, which was scrubbed clean except for several white blotches caking on the pavement. "I washed the sidewalk today, but the damn birds

come by and shit on it," Frankie shrugged.

A police car passed by and Frankie and Johnny automatically started hunching. The car continued south on Polk.

"The police have been hassling us," Frankie complained. "We tell them we just cleaned the street but they don't care. They tell us to walk away."

"Mayor Jordan with his MATRIX program!" grumbled Johnny. "It's supposed to be focused on the 'criminal element.' But they don't know who it is so they chase us [the homeless] all out."

Johnny told the B.A.R. he wasn't scared about his current health problems, but acknowledged, "sometimes my face hurts and whenever I've gotta blow my nose or rub my face the sores crack and bleed."

Frankie and Johnny say they have recently adopted a new attitude towards sex. "We are still lovers and we practice safe sex by just hugging and kissing. We don't have to prove our love with sex. We would still do anything for each other."

Once again, Frankie left, this time for Dos Amigos for a restroom break.

"The merchants [Cinch Bar, Dos Amigos, Twin's Bakery, Polk Street Bean's Cafe, Polk & Clay Liquors, Sam's Chinese, and Thai Spice] still help us out," Johnny said as Frankie returned. "They have not treated me any worse because of my condition."

A new street resident passed by, wearing a turtle-neck with a tie, black jeans, and pointy cowboy boots with silver tipped toes. He then got on all fours and sniffed Frankie before barking, "The devil takes you to the limit."

Frankie and Johnnie watched as the man stood and cartwheeled toward Washington Street, then stopped the tumbling and pointed at Johnny. "Oh God, look at his face!" he cried.

"He always comes by here," Frankie sighed. "He's lost it." ▼

Suspected Castro Bashers Arrested

by Dennis Conkin

Two adult females, an adult male, and a juvenile female were arrested after an altercation in the Castro on Tuesday, October 27.

They were booked on charges of felony assault with deadly weapons; assault on police officers; and hate crimes, following a bashing in

front of Le Salon Videos, at 4126 18th Street, on October 27 at 8:45 p.m.

The suspects are accused of an anti-gay battery, involving hands and feet, on a 45-year-old victim.

The names of the suspects and victim had not been determined at B.A.R. press time.

According to police infor-

mation, the victim was treated at the scene of the crime.

The incident followed another reported problem in the Castro the same evening at around 9 p.m., which involved three juveniles throwing objects at pedestrians in the 400 block of Castro, according to a police spokesperson. ▼

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Community News

ADL Sued Over Gerard Files

by Nathan Salant

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) - A coalition of social and political groups filed suit Thursday, October 21, accusing the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith of helping authorities spy on them and discourage their activities in three California cities.

The groups, including associations of Arab-Americans, attorneys, anti-apartheid activists, American Indians, and others, contend that 40 years of cooperation between the ADL and police in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego violated their federal and state constitutional rights.

The suit seeks a court order to block further surveillance activities directed against the groups and unspecified monetary damages.

In a statement issued Thursday, the ADL said the suit was "without merit" and said the charges of conspiracy were "completely false."

"The Anti-Defamation League conducts its factfind-

ing seriously, professionally, and lawfully," the statement said. "The conspiracy theories outlined in the complaint are completely false and serve only to highlight the plaintiffs' political agenda. The Anti-Defamation League will not be deterred from its mandate to counter extremism is defense of American democracy."

The lawsuit is the latest development since revelations high-ranking San Francisco police inspector Thomas Gerard supplied the ADL with confidential information obtained by police surveillance.

The suit alleges the Jewish watchdog group turned information about Palestinian groups in the Bay Area over to the Israeli government and about anti-apartheid groups to the South African government.

Lesbians and gays were also observed by Gerard on behalf of the ADL, and the Bay Area Reporter was referred to in one ADL dossier as "pinko."

"This is an attempt to stop the illegal activities of the ADL and the San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego police departments," said Marc van der Hout, an attorney representing the National Lawyers Guild, at one of two simultaneous press conferences announcing the lawsuit in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

"A state agency like the San Francisco Police Department has no right to monitor the lawful activities of these organizations," he said.

Peter Schey, an attorney for the plaintiffs, said he believed the violations were made by only a few members of the ADL.

"It is our opinion that the vast majority of ADL supporters and employees knew nothing about these covert ADL operations," he said. "We hope that the suit will be a discovery mechanism allow us access to more documents so that we can unearth the full scope of the ADL's activities." ▼

Baker

(Continued from page 1)

the Facts," "It's Time To Stop the Denial," and "Women who Fuck Women Can Get HIV/AIDS Too." Men applauded from the doors of crowded bars. Rita Shimmin, Director of HIV Services at Lyon-Martin Clinic, spoke as she marched, telling the Bay Area Reporter that the event was "what Joan's life was all about: being seen, being heard, making a difference."

"Take care of ourselves and each other"

Shimmin continued, "It's a testimony to what she has meant to all the women's community — she stood up for services for all women. And because of what she demanded, everybody else will have an easier time getting [treatment needs met]. It's still not easy. We have been taking care of our gay brothers but we also have to take care of ourselves and each other, and Jenn and Joan modeled that. We need to think highly enough of ourselves to demand that for ourselves."

Among the speakers who addressed the marchers and Saturday crowds at Harvey Milk Plaza were Maeder, Lesbian Avenger Judith Cohen, Rebecca Dennison of WORLD (Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases), Shimmin, and Melissa Jones and Tia Martinez from the San Francisco Department of Public Health AIDS Office. Several speakers joined Shimmin in stressing the need for visibility and recognition of the women now living with HIV/AIDS, and the need to take care of each other.

Speaker Dorothy Bartolomucci, who is living with AIDS, said, "No one is saying women are getting HIV, so women aren't getting tested. Women wait until the last minute to get tested. They find out they have this disease when they have full-blown AIDS. Five years down the line, women are going to start getting sick, and aren't going to have anywhere to go, unless we get together now and start making



Jana Barber (left) clasps hands with Joan Baker's partner, Jenn Maeder, during Saturday's march. (Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

a difference."

Bartolomucci went to the March on Washington, where, she related, "I told the CDC, 'You have me listed as a heterosexual woman. I'm not, I'm a lesbian, and I want to be counted.'"

Also critical of the health bureaucracy's response to women with AIDS was Denison, who asserted, "We have to demand more research. It's not hard to get samples of vaginal fluid and menstrual blood, but they still don't know what our risks are, and the fastest growing group of people with AIDS is women."

The FDA was specifically criticized for its exclusion of women from clinical trials in literature circulated by Kate Krauss of ACT UP/Golden Gate. Krauss explained, "This march coincides with an effort by ACT UPs around the country to protest the new FDA guidelines on women in clinical trials. In the past, women have been totally excluded. The new guidelines say women may be included, but there's no requirement, no incentive, for researchers to do so. They're permitted to exclude any woman of child-bearing age. ... Women have been sterilized to enter these trials."

Maeder had earlier told the B.A.R. that coming out to friends about Joan's HIV status didn't bring the couple the

immediate support they saw extended to gay male friends same situation. Instead, her partner was immediately interrogated: "They would ask, 'How did you get it?'"

Maeder envisions a different response from a women's community awakened to the realities of lesbians with HIV. "We need to support the women who are positive, acknowledge them, listen to them, lesbian, bi, or heterosexual. Part of the reason we are marching in the Castro is to be public outreach in our own community, to say this is not an issue that only affects men. We have a lot to learn from these women about compassion and courage. We need to acknowledge they're human like the rest of us, and let them know they are welcome."

Maeder again spoke at Harvey Milk Plaza, of the need for a unity transcending our labels. "We can't ignore women's needs. This doesn't mean ignore men's needs; we're all in this together. We can't concentrate on one gender, one preference, or one label. Just think of the lives we can save, the lives we can extend; imagine if a woman here today who might be at risk now gets tested, and if we can tell her she has a life, she has a future, she has a community that will support her." ▼

The AIDS Memorial Grove Appreciates Volunteers, and Vice Versa

by Rene M. Astudillo

There was a lively Reggae festival at Golden Gate Park on Friday, October 16, but that wasn't what attracted the 80 or so people to a spot a few hundred yards away off Bowling Green Drive. The men, women, and children singlemindedly went about the business of planting trees, trimming the grass, and clearing the area of weeds until exactly twelve o'clock noon, when they stopped their tasks to gather in a circle, join hands, and call out names of people they knew who had died of AIDS.

This same kind of activity takes place one Saturday each month at the a 15-acre spot in the park, formerly called De Laveaga Dell, but now called the AIDS Memorial Grove. In the two years since the Grove was launched, it has evolved into a well-organized, volunteer community effort.

Each monthly "workday," one corporate sponsor donates a minimum of \$250 and brings in at least ten volunteers to participate in the day's scheduled activity. Others participate by donating \$100 in memory of a loved one, or by organizing a group to help in the day's work. This month, the sponsors were the McKesson Group, Mike Kurokawa, and the San Francisco League of Urban

Gardeners (SLUG), which brought in the "green team" from Juvenile Hall, Youth Quest, and the Asian-American Residential Recovery Services. Food and beverage donors included Spinelli's, Noah's Bagels, Magnani Poultry of Oakland, and Garibaldi's on Presidio.

Keeping memories alive

The grove began in 1991, when a group of friends decided they needed a physical location in which to harness the gifts of nature, as a way to keep alive the memories of loved ones who have passed away from AIDS, while providing a venue for the living to cope with loss and grief. The search for a location led to Golden Gate Park, in a once-splendid section known as De Laveaga Dell that had fallen into disrepair over the years.

The dell originally opened in 1921, a gift from the estate of Jose Vicente de Laveaga, and quickly became an attraction with its lake and stream lined with artfully constructed false boulders, and a landscape that featured rhododendrons, camellias, oaks, irises, and spectacular ferns. Unfortunately, in recent decades it suffered a lack of maintenance and its popularity declined.

With the help of park officials, De Laveaga Dell was

designated the home of the AIDS Memorial Grove. The design plan for the Grove was approved in 1992, with the goal of retaining the peaceful pastoral spirit of the dell while creating a powerful memorial. Part of the design is the development of four gathering areas — the Dogwood Crescent, the Redwood Circle, the Neadown Circle and Overlook, and the Fern Grotto — which will provide opportunities for individual or group remembrances.

Todd Cole, co-chair of the site committee, told the B.A.R. that the full completion of the Grove plan may take another two to three years, but says that most everyone is pleased with the progress so far achieved in "rejuvenating" the area.

For many volunteers, participation in a single workday leads to another — and another, and another. A few volunteers have not missed a single workday, like Mary Claycomb, who usually shows up at the Grove with her kids. Skip Moulton is another Grove faithful: each visit to the Grove provides him with a living memory of his lover who had passed away from AIDS. Another volunteer, Ben Small, gathers dried grass and leaves from the Grove and makes them into bouquet cards, which are sold to benefit the project. SLUG's



Eighty or so people gathered October 16 in Golden Gate Park for the second anniversary of the AIDS Memorial Grove there. A memorial tree planting was carried out by the volunteers.

(Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

Joshua Bloom was quick to point out that the participation of young kids in this project is a unique way to make them aware of the devastating effects of the epidemic and to make them better understand the human and spiritual aspects surrounding AIDS.

Saturday, November 6, 1993, has been designated as "volunteer appreciation day," where volunteers will be honored for the time, love, and

commitment they have extended to the realization of the first ever significant living memorial for persons lost to AIDS. This time around, it will not be a workday, but rather a time just to have fun, enjoy the company of friends, and perhaps dance to Reggae.

To sponsor or participate in a workday at the Grove, or to find out other ways of supporting the project, call Kerry Katherine Enright or Scott Steffens at (415) 621-3260. ▼

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National News

Ryan White's Mom On AIDS Education

United Press International

SAN FRANCISCO — In a tearful review of her son Ryan's inspiring battle with AIDS, Jeanne White asked health care providers and AIDS activists on Wednesday, October 20, to work for universal education in schools about the deadly disease.

At a national AIDS gathering, White recalled her son's ordeal of being forced out of school after his diagnosis in 1984. He was 13 at the time. White said little was known then about how the disease was spread, and fear ran rampant.

White said Ryan, a

hemophiliac who contracted AIDS through a tainted blood transfusion and died five years later, held up courageously against the prejudice of his teachers, classmates, and even doctors.

She said Ryan, whose life was featured in a television movie, forgave those who shunned him with humor and understanding. He became a symbol for activists promoting the civil rights of people with AIDS.

White, who got a standing ovation, urged that all schools "tell the whole truth" in teaching children about AIDS, how it is contracted, and how to prevent getting it. ▼



Jeanne White, mother of Ryan, spoke recently at the AIDS Update Conference here. (Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Study: PWAs Need Change in Care System

by Lidia Wasowicz
UPI Science Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — On Sunday, October 24, scientists urged a more centralized approach to AIDS care, noting turf wars, limited resources and narrow goals typical of the current system of many small providers often interfere with services.

Studies in Oakland, California, and Baltimore documented a lack of coordination among AIDS care providers, noting many organizations duplicated functions, while other needed services were not available at all.

"It is difficult to develop a sustainable HIV service delivery system because so many organizations are operating in a fragmented way," said Thomas Rundall, professor of public health at the University of California, Berkeley.

"Our research supports anecdotal stories in the popular press regarding HIV-positive clients who have difficulty understanding the system and difficulty using it to meet their needs."

In many communities, AIDS services are provided by dozens of small, independent organizations, often serving narrow subgroups of patients, such as homosexuals or women or blacks or hemophiliacs, and providing only a single service, such as home health care or delivery of meals.

"Little effort is put into coordinating service delivery with others," Rundall said. "AIDS patients often have to find and coordinate services on their own or go without. They may not know what they really need, much less where to get it."

Collaborative breakdown

The researchers from UC Berkeley, Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and the Federal Department of Health and Human Services

recommended small organizations join networks of service providers, to share resources and collaborate on planning.

Currently, the studies found, small providers do few referrals, if any, and rarely share resources, in contrast to larger, multi-service providers that are much more willing to pool resources and provide a wide array of care.

"The breakdown of collaboration can be attributed to limited resources in small agencies, narrowly defined organizational missions and turf protection," Rundall said. "Goals for organizations providing only a single service are very narrow."

The certain resistance to centralization and coordination by many small providers must be overcome, the researchers said, noting that as the deadly disease spreads beyond the original afflicted groups, "we are clearly entering a new phase of the AIDS epidemic." ▼

Update

(Continued from page 1)

tudes, they said.

"Although everyone agrees therapies need to be better than they are, the mood has recovered," Dr. Paul Volberding, director of the AIDS Program at San Francisco General Hospital, said at the Sixth National AIDS Update Conference.

Since the epidemic began in 1981, 315,390 Americans have been stricken with AIDS, and 194,344 have died, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Of particular interest are studies of long-term survivors who have remained symptom-free five to ten years after being infected. They may provide a critical clue as to why some people remain healthy while others become deathly sick when invaded by the human immunodeficiency virus that is thought to cause AIDS.

Also on the front burner are therapeutic strategies involving combinations of drugs.



Outreach workers from the Youth Peer Education Program of the SF Department of Public Health offer condom keyrings to those who know the answers to HIV/safe sex questions at the AIDS Update Conference. (Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Scientists agree there is no good therapy for AIDS, but hope while waiting for a non-toxic and effective drug to be developed, some combination of existing treatments might be used to prolong and improve life for at least some patients.

Scientists also said initial test results on a group of drugs called protease inhibitors, which block the

growth of infectious viruses, has been promising.

In addition, Volberding said, researchers are on the verge of developing tests that can quickly measure the effectiveness of a treatment in an individual.

Because of the wide range of symptoms and reactions to HIV infection, such tests could prove vital in making sure no patient gets over- or under-treated. ▼

L.A., San Diego Forums: HIV and People of Color

by Rene M. Astudillo

Of the numerous HIV/AIDS conferences held every year throughout America, few are designed to specifically address the concerns of people of color, despite studies and statistics that identify communities of color — including gay men of color — as among the sectors where HIV/AIDS is increasing at alarming rates.

To address that gap, the Western Region AIDS Education Project (WRAEP) Comprehensive Health Center sponsored a regional conference on people of color and HIV on October 13-15 at the Carmel Highland Doubletree Resort in San Diego, with the theme, "HIV and the Second Decade: Challenges, Priorities and Solutions."

The objectives of the conference were: to review the challenges people of color face in the second decade of HIV; establish priorities and identifying realistic and reasonable solutions to address the challenges; and provide a forum for community leaders and concerned citizens to define their needs relative to substance abuse and HIV disease.

Workshops within the conference addressed HIV/AIDS issues that affect a wide spectrum of populations within the different communities of



State Senator Art Torres (D-LA) spoke at a recent hearing on HIV/AIDS in the Latino community.

color. Specifically, the conference workshops included such topics as "Resolving the issues of invisibility and isolation faced by lesbians of color," and "Confronting HIV/AIDS in gay men of color."

In addition to addressing the unique concerns of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities, the workshops took a fresh look at traditional healing practices for HIV-positive persons of color and tried to address specific needs of four communities of color: Asian and Pacific Islanders, African-Americans, Latinos and Native Americans. ▼

by Cynthia Littleton

Two days after a conference on HIV and people of color ended in San Diego, Hispanic community leaders in Los Angeles held a forum to discuss the rising tide of AIDS among Los Angeles County's Hispanic population.

One of every three people with AIDS in Los Angeles County is Hispanic, state senator Art Torres, D-Los Angeles, said in his opening remarks at the Los Angeles County Intergovernmental Hearing on HIV/AIDS in the Latino Community.

Hispanics constitute the fastest growing segment of newly diagnosed AIDS cases,



State Assemblyman Richard Polanco (D-LA) stated that "it's time for us to develop consensus on strategy."

with a 95 percent increase among Hispanic males reported over the last year.

"Without a proper Latino/Latina strategy in place, we have every reason to believe these numbers will increase," Torres said.

Myths about the disease and its victims permeates the community, forum participants agreed.

In addition to addressing cultural and religious barriers to safe-sex preventative measures, a network of low-cost clinics for people with AIDS needs to be established in East Los Angeles and other largely Hispanic areas of the county, forum participants said.

"It's time for us to develop a consensus on strategy. A strategy that comes from the community will bring long-lasting benefits to that community," said state Assemblyman Richard Polanco, D-Los Angeles.

Also attending the forum were representatives from the county Board of Supervisors, the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Mayor Richard Riordan's newly formed human relations commission, healthcare workers from local hospitals and clinics, and the Los Angeles Unified School District. ▼

AIDS Vaccine Progress Reported

United Press International

SAN FRANCISCO — Dr. Donald Francis, the real-life researcher who was used as the central character of the film *And the Band Played On*, spoke at the Fifth Annual AIDS Update Conference in San Francisco, Wednesday, October 20.

Francis reported on the progress on an AIDS vaccine that is expected to be tested on thousands of people beginning next year. Some 300 people already have been inoculated with the vaccine, developed by the biotechnology firm Genentech of South San Francisco.

Francis told his audience thus far the only side effects have been sore arms.

He said the question remains whether the vaccine can protect high-risk individuals against infection. To answer this question, researchers plan to test the vaccine on several thousand gay men and intravenous drug users in late 1994.

Francis said liability, cost, and profits are the main obstacles in getting more drug companies interested in manufacturing an AIDS vaccine. ▼

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Community News

Alioto Agrees To Alter Proposed S.F. Smoking Ban

by Rene M. Astudillo

Bars will not be included in the proposed San Francisco ordinance that would totally ban smoking in places of employment. Board of Supervisors president Angela Alioto offered this and several other amendments to her original proposal in what was seen as a compromise to strong objections from restaurant and bar owners over the 100 percent smoke-free legislation. Also excluded from the proposed ordinance are restaurants that have bars in the same physical location.

At a packed hearing held Tuesday, October 26, the Health, Public Safety, and Environment Committee voted to elevate the issue to the full board. The committee actions came after a series of public hearings over the last few months where health advocates and the business sector clashed over whether or not government should be allowed to interfere in what was considered private sector behavior of its citizens. The hotel and restaurant industry contends that passing such an ordinance would be detrimental to business, while supporters of the ban insist that the rights of non-smokers and employees where smoking is allowed should be protected. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ruled that second-hand smoke is considered a cancer-causing Class A carcinogen for which there is no safe level of exposure for humans.

Alioto also proposed that if approved, the ordinance will take effect in January, 1995,

and that after twelve months of being in force, a review of the ordinance will be conducted to determine whether or not it would cause financial hardship on the part of the restaurant owners. Supervisor Terrence Hallinan's counter-proposal cutting down the timeline of this review to six months, was approved by the committee.

Supervisor Susan Leal Also

offered an amendment to exclude hotel and motel guestrooms from the ban, provided that no less than 35 percent of the guestrooms would be non-smoking.

The office of Mayor Frank Jordan had indicated that, with the amendments offered by Alioto and Leal, the mayor would act favorably on the ordinance when it got to his desk for signature. ▼



San Francisco Supervisor Angela Alioto has amended her proposed ban on smoking in places of employment ordinance.

(Photo: Darlene/Photographics)

Bigger and Better: Growth Hormone and HIV Study

by Dennis Conkin

A study of genetically engineered recombinant growth hormone as a possible treatment for people with HIV who have wasting syndrome is underway by University of California Medical Center researchers.

The trial, conducted at San Francisco General Hospital and the Veteran's Administration Medical Center, seeks volunteers who have documented unintentional weight loss of at least ten percent of body weight, are taking an anti-retroviral drug such as AZT, ddi, ddC, or d4t, and are well enough to walk around and meet other study requirements.

Participants will receive a full day of testing, including a physical exam and strength and endurance tests, at San Francisco General Hospital.

Volunteers will be divided into two groups, with half getting the growth hormone and the other half a placebo.

At the end of an initial three-month period in the study, all participants will be given growth hormone for an indefinite period, according to UCSF assistant research en-

docrinologist Dr. Kathy Mulligan, who is the co-investigator of the study, "as long as we feel it's doing some good, unless side effects develop, the patients chooses to go off, or it's approved by the FDA."

"Several factors can contribute to weight loss in people with HIV," Mulligan told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "There can be a decrease in food intake with a loss of appetite, or malabsorption, and people with HIV can have problems with diarrhea."

HIV-infected patients tend to lose more lean tissue than fat, and as a result may feel weak and fatigued, Mulligan said. Nutritional therapy can increase appetite and food consumption, but the weight gain tends to be in fat and not lean tissue.

Previous positive results

A previous SFGH study of recombinant growth hormone in 12 patients showed that all patients — including six with HIV infection — gained weight. In that study, the patients with HIV gained an average of five pounds during one week of therapy.

Mulligan said that researchers in the current study

don't believe that everyone is going to gain that much weight that quickly. She also acknowledged that the drug may induce a slight increase in blood sugar or fat levels and puffiness in the arms and legs as side effects.

Mulligan said that the study is open to people with "some KS lesions on the skin, but excludes patients with oral or esophageal KS lesions." Patients must also not be in the midst of an opportunistic infection or suffer from constant, unremitting, and debilitating diarrhea.

Volunteers must also not be taking Marinol, a synthetic nausea reliever containing the active ingredient in marijuana, or Megace, or other anabolic medications.

For more information about the study at SFGH, contact Viva Tai, R.D., at 206-4090 or Mulligan at 206-5882. Veterans and others who wish to participate in the study through VAMC should call Mae Pang, M.S., R.N., at 750-2005.

The SFGH study is part of a nationwide safety and efficacy of RCGH, which is manufactured by Serano Laboratories. ▼

Achtenberg Still Likes Clinton, And Her Son Loves Washington

by Karen Ocamb

A sizable crowd turned out for a reception honoring Roberta Achtenberg, Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, at the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center on October 18. She is the highest ranking openly lesbian or gay person in the U.S. government.

Achtenberg, in the city to check in with the "Rebuild L.A." effort and to visit with friends, took a few minutes out to talk with a reporter from her former hometown newspaper.

Though she did not think it appropriate to comment extensively on the gays-in-the-military issue, Achtenberg did say, "I don't know anyone who's happy with the result. ... I have made my views known to the President." She said someone in Washington had pulled her aside and said "I heard the President called you in to tone you down," to which Achtenberg responded "I have no idea what you're talking about — that's ridiculous." She didn't elaborate on who inquired.

"You agree to become part of a presidential team — which is what you are," she continued. "You serve at the pleasure of the president. If it becomes intolerable for you to serve, then you resign. Your obligation is to do your job to the very best of your ability and try to serve all the people. If you have issues you want to raise with the president, then you raise them privately. You don't raise them in the newspaper — at least in my view."

Achtenberg, one of Clinton's biggest campaign supporters, still thinks Clinton "gets it. The President is a man with an exquisite appreciation of people in all their diversity," she said. "But I don't think anyone understood what it would mean to promise what he promised. I don't think he did. I don't think you or I did."

"Not an issue in isolation"

"I don't think any of the observers really knew what it would mean and I don't know



Roberta Achtenberg, who was honored at a reception at the LA Gay and Lesbian Services Center October 18 and is seen talking here with the center's Legal Director Roger Coggen, still believes President Clinton "gets it." (Photo: Karen Ocamb)

that they knew that the issue would arise at a time when the administration had been dealt a blow politically on the stimulus package, and was about to confront a budget that only barely squeaked by, and was in the process of downsizing the military and trying to figure what the military's mission should be in the post-Cold War era. I can understand why people would view this as an issue in isolation, but it was not an issue in isolation. That is not an excuse — it's an explanation."

Achtenberg also noted that nobody "anticipated what would happen when I was nominated and what the confirmation process might be like — nobody really knew that it was going to be like what it was. Not the veteran observers. The President didn't know. I didn't know."

"And I don't know that anybody could have known," she said. "These things have never been done before. They've never been tried before. To Bill Clinton's credit, he has been willing to try and that is very important. What people decide that means in the end, I suppose, is an individual decision."

She told the B.A.R. she thinks the federal civil rights bill is "a number of years away, but closer than it has been. In from two-thirds

of the Senate are willing to judge people on their ability to do the job rather than their status, then I think that shows some promise. It's a large leap from that to letting a gay and lesbian civil rights bill get out of a committee and onto the floor of Congress. But stranger things have happened in our lifetime."

Achtenberg says that in her three months on the job, her department has become "very aggressive" in enforcing the federal fair housing laws, which essentially are civil rights laws.

Achtenberg misses her friends. But, she said, "I get to do a really great job," implementing on a national level the "principles" she learned in San Francisco. "I'm grateful every day for the kind of experience I have had as a political person in the community at large and the gay and lesbian community," she said. "It's taught me a lot about how to try to move things forward and I think it's served me well."

Meanwhile, her family — "the most important thing in the world to me" — is "great." Her son Benjamin in particular loves Washington, and since they live in the "burbs" he gets to "play every hour of the day and night" with the kids living next door. "It's wonderful," she said. ▼

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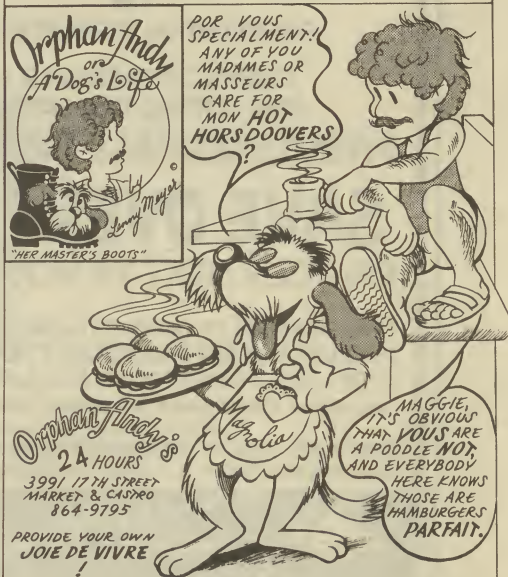
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Left to right: NAMES Project Executive Director Anthony Turney, actress Judith Light, Miss America 1993 Leanza Cornett and NAMES Project Board President Chester Woolley at the 1993 Friends of the Quilt awards.

(Photo: Ellen McDermott)

Vacation Destination: Hell in So Cal

Museum Takes Creationism Seriously — and Condone Murder of Gays

by Marghe Covino

SANTEE, CALIFORNIA — Nestled in an industrial park, fronting a freeway in East San Diego County, sits the 17-year-old Museum of Creation and Earth Science, the object of devout pilgrimage. Thousands of tourists and schoolchildren walk through the new building ("we started in a basement with just slips of paper on a wall") listening to a guide explain that the earth is of recent origin and creation is anywhere from six to ten thousand years old; "debunk" evolution; and "prove" biblical lore.

Each exhibit is bolstered by piles of "documentation" from the El Cajon-based "Institute for Creation Research," which viewers are free to take at the various stations along the way. An impressive list of names with Ph.D.s in law, research biochemistry and hydraulics, biology, physics, and geophysics is noted on the handbills.

Simply to look at the material, it might seem the aim of the museum's supporters is to see both creationism taught alongside evolution in America's classrooms, with as much scientific evidence bolstering each side as can be assembled. But a walk through the museum indicates a much different view.

The museum proclaims

the absolute truth of creationist beliefs, and attributes those beliefs to a significant number of fundamentalist populations, including orthodox Hebrew and Islamic. A sign states that most "other" religions are evolutionary: by implication, at best inferior and at worst, apostate. Biblical passages are quoted and visitors are explicitly ordered to decide "where he stands on this vital issue." For those who may hesitate in their decision-making process, another sign proclaims, "The Tree of Evolutionism bears only corrupt fruits, Creationism bears good fruits."

From that beginning visitors stroll through Genesis, where it is confirmed that God used 24-hour days during the Creation — this is a strictly literal interpretation of the absolute inerrant Word of God. As they tread upon brightly painted raised concrete outlines of the earth and the cosmos, visitors are confronted with a sign proclaiming that "many top astronomers are now abandoning the 'Big Bang' theory" just before moving through the next doorway — to the Garden of Eden.

Here, much is made about God's directive to man to have "dominion" over the earth and its creatures — and indeed, an algae-ridden fish tank, a few little finches with scant food and water, a taran-

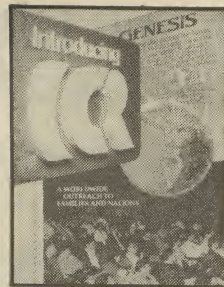
tula with no water or food, mice climbing an endless wheel to escape their cramped cage, and poorly-kept reptiles assert that dominion in no uncertain terms. All around the hapless animals, Eden is a vision of formed concrete trees and artificial greenery.

"The billions of fossils of both men and animals in the rocks of earth speak of sin and death — not the evolution of life — they must ALL be dated AFTER Adam's fall," a sign proclaims.

The Flood comes next, complete with theories about God putting most of the large animals in a hibernating state, a dimensional mural of the inside of the ark, "space photographs" of the mountainous region in Ararat where the ark was purported to have landed, strobe lightning, and water sounds.

From there, the Ice Age room, replete with concrete-formed blue-painted stalactites and chilly temperatures. It is during this exhibit that modern science is explained away to visitors.

"All of that water [after the flood] had to go somewhere," a guide told a recent group consisting of a B.A.R. reporter and six high school students, "so it probably went into making the glaciers in the Ice Age. The dinosaurs were in the ark, and when the Ice Age came they were



The cover of one of the Institute for Creation Research brochures that are available at the Museum of Creation and Earth Science.

caught in it and that's how come their bones are found in various places, because they were left by the glaciers." (Director Steven Spielberg has also fallen victim to this view, when orthodox rabbis in Israel declared his Jurassic Park heretical because it depicted evolution.)

Several sets of displays hold odd collections of seemingly unrelated things: monarch butterflies in one case; a melted 45 rpm record, a paintbrush, a rusty hook, and a melted lab flask in another. Still another contains a lengthy pictorial discourse on Mount St. Helens and the unreliability of radiometric dating: "To determine the geological age of a fossil: Do NOT use depth (where found); Do NOT use type of rock; Do NOT use radiometric dating; Do NOT use stage of evolution; DO use the Word of God."

One particularly artless arrangement mixes cheap knock-off pottery and artifacts — heavy on the shekels and menorahs — plus oil lamps, widow's mites, Greek and Egyptian artifacts, human fossils, and something called "Post-Flood Man." Still another sign states: "Cave men were not human but weaker, probably degenerate descendants of those migrating away from the Tower of Babel." Babel is identified, for those who may not know, as the hotbed of "evolutionary pantheism, polytheistic idolatry, astrology, and occult spiritism."

A crude, black-bladed weapon in a display case of Egyptian, Incan, Aztec, and Zapotec artifacts between rooms frequently catches visitors' attention. For one thing, it was allegedly used in human sacrifice, and for another, its design is decidedly phallic: the handle is of a greenish male figure, legs astride, the handle and blade extending from between his legs to deliver the ultimate "screw you." What makes it seem so out of place is not its sexual connotations, but its humor.

The Egyptian, Sumerian, and Greek civilizations are brushed aside as "man-centered, anti-Christian philosophies." The disciplines of Epicureanism (341-271 B.C.) and Zeno's Stoicism (336-264 B.C.) are faulted for "opposing [St.] Paul's preaching," even

though they were expounded some 300 years before his existence. Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle are dismissed as "atheistic" or "pantheistic." Animism is described as the basis for the religions of "uncivilized tribes" — and also for Hindus, Buddhists, Shintoists, Confucianists, and Muslims.

After a brief reintroduction to the Aztecs and Incas — all disapproving comments about their behavior, heathenism, and human sacrifice — visitors move on to the final display. To get there, they pass what even the guide calls "our wall of infamy."

Actually, the wall is a hall. On one side are "Bible-believing Scientists," and Evolutionists on the other side include Friedrich Nietzsche, Andrew Carnegie, Karl Marx, John D. Rockefeller, Charles Darwin — and his grandfather. Nazism, communism, and racism are listed as being "the fruits of evolution."

The final display is listed as The Decadence of Pre-Columbian Indian Societies. For this culmination of the tour, the museum features the opinion of self-professed authority on pre-Columbian civilizations — and the justification for the killing and enslaving of indigenous peoples — William Dannemeyer.

"Homosexuality was quite common in many Pre-Columbian Indian societies," the exhibit reads. "Columbus discovered, with disgust and dismay, that both the violent Caribs and relatively peaceful Arawaks practiced sodomy. Cortez also found that sodomy was rampant among Indian tribes in Mexico. The priestly caste of the Cempoalan tribe, for instance, indulged in sodomy, and homosexual prostitution was common among the community."

"Due to constant internecine warfare and ecological abuse the Mayan civilization had already collapsed by the time the Spaniards arrived. The residue left of that once mighty culture was a people that had retreated into abject barbarism. Congressman William Dannemeyer has described the scene that greeted the Conquistadors: 'When the Spaniards came to Mexico in the early 16th century, the Mayan civilization they found was no longer the healthy vital culture that has produced so much wealth and learning. It had become decadent and self-indulgent. The pleasure-obsessed upper classes were sacrificing human beings, indulging in orgies, and practicing sodomy without shame. The shocked Spaniards put the Mayan's leaders to the sword.'"

Over 27,000 visitors have been through the museum this year. Go. Look. See the past and project the future. B.A.R. readers may not find it a fun trip, but a definite must-see to understand the "why" of the Republican Convention and the "what" of the world view that plans to completely change, among other things, education, science, communication, art, law, economics, medicine, and other spheres of influence.

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California News

Gay GOPs: Losers or Leaders?

The Debate Raged in San Diego...

by Marghe Covino
Capitol Correspondent

SAN DIEGO — About 50 people gathered in a meeting room at San Diego's Pan Pacific hotel, Sunday, October 22, for the last of the weekend's events for the politically moderate California Republican League. According to participants, the moderates are engaged in a mortal struggle for the soul of the Republican party against right wing religious extremists; to that end, pro-choice, gay, and middle-of-the-road fiscal conservative types gathered together to hold discourse on the future of their party.

Sunday's two debates, one on Proposition 174, the School Voucher Initiative, and the other on Social Issues in the Republican Party, pointed out the deep schism that is causing some moderates to join conservative Democrats — and others to consider a third party alternative.

National Log Cabin representative and Pete Wilson appointee Marty Keller debated social issues with H.L. Richardson employee and Gun Owners president, John Stoops. Keller, an English major from University of Michigan, was authoritative and articulate. Stoops opened by saying he was glad of the opportunity to "share" with the group and assured them that he would "share from the heart" with them.

Dealing with the original title of the debate — "Cracks In The Big Tent" — Stoops said, "We're our own worst enemies, we need to realize that: we'll agree to disagree." He cited Samuel Rutherford, "a Calvinist and a powerful writer," and John Locke, "also powerful — but not a strong Christian — but both were agreed on the way government should be run." He listed areas of agreement and disagreement between GOP factions, saying, "We believe there is a set of standards: revealed law, divine law. We believe the concept that man is falling and they [liberals] believe man is basically good, therefore they would put everything in the hands of centralized government — i.e., bicycle helmets and healthcare — and we want limited government with local control, diversity of government, which encourages individual responsibility.

Different from the Dems

"We are different from the Democrats in that we believe in prioritizing family, church, charity, and then civil law."

Keller started by saying he subscribes to the Ann Richards political school. He told a story that when the newly elected governor of Texas was approached by a constituent to remove the life-sized Nativity scene near the capitol, Richards said, "Honey, give it a rest. It's the closest a wise man will get to the seat of government in Texas." Having achieved the laugh, Keller got down to business. He said, "The issue that we face in our politics in the United States is about being honest, first and foremost. The amount of rank dishonesty which permeates our political discussions and our po-



National Log Cabin representative and Pete Wilson appointee Marty Keller stated, "We should take back the Bible — the morality — take it from those who misuse it, who use it for fear."

(Photo: Rick Gerhart)

litical relationships with each other is odious at best. We're afraid to confront each other about the lies that come out of our mouths. I think the problem in our Republican party is we're no longer willing to confront each other about some very basic truths and some very basic issues."

Keller then stated his disagreement with Stoops's philosophy. "We live in a world that is changing so dramatically," he said, "that in our domestic political lives — not only in the United States but in western Europe and the other 'established democracies' — we're seeing a dramatic rise in fear among the populations that's driven by economic dislocation. It's driven by the fact that we're undergoing a transformation that is so radical that you really have to go back 500 years to find something similar to it.

"A moral price"

"There's a moral price to pay when we live a big lie. The truth about the Republican party is we're disunited and we have to admit it." Keller then gave the moderates a wake-up call. "We should take our hats off to the religious right; they have a sense of moral power and pride and they're consistent about what they believe in and they've gone out there and they've earned their way to where they are today. And if we want to have any say in this Republican party and if we want to have any say in the future of America, then we ought to study what John and his friends have been doing for the past ten years. We should tell them, 'we're gonna learn from you.' We should go to those Christian Coalition Road To Victory conferences in Pat Robertson's complex in Virginia. We should go there to learn how they teach people to take over precincts, where they teach people how to take over state parties, where they teach people how to disguise what they do, where they teach people how to get around the Eighth Commandment which says 'Thou shalt not bear false witness.'"

Keller went on to say that the moderates have no burning moral vision, but "every day with the collapse of the economy, people who are looking for certainty are told, 'I have the answer, I have certainty.' We should take back the Bible — the morality — take it from those who misuse it, who use it for fear."

Death penalty

Stoops and Keller had another basic disagreement when Stoops said party members could disagree in the primary but then should unite behind the candidate. Keller asked, "How can I support people who fundamentally say I have no right to exist — that I should be stoned to death?" At that point, Keller held up a copy of the booklet by the so-called Reverend Peter Peter, "The Death Penalty For Homosexuals Is Prescribed By the Bible."

After further debate Keller asked Stoops if he [Keller] should be put to death. Stoops responded that the act of public sodomy is not societally acceptable but that the government should stay out of the bedroom.

In an impromptu interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* a few minutes later, Stoops said that by "public sodomy" he meant places like bathhouses, and that if AIDS continues to spread then the death penalty might have to be reconsidered.

"A few years ago we would have found the death penalty for dope dealers to be unthinkable — but now, it's the law," he said. Stoops also mentioned having to deal with the issue of homosexuality in his own family — but didn't elaborate.

Log Cabin National President Abner Mason was given a reception later by the San Diego Club. He spoke about the leadership position in the gay and lesbian community that will be taken by the Log Cabin office in Washington DC. That office will be headed by former national president Rich Tafel, and intends to produce videotapes to counter activities of the religious right. ▼

L.A. Gay Dems and GOPs Come Together for Mayor

by Karen Ocamb

Gay and lesbians partisans enjoy as much political debate — and practice as much internal organizational bickering — as their non-gay counterparts. But for the past few years, other than at AIDS events or LIFE Lobby meetings, gay Republicans and Democrats have been so far apart as to border on open personal feuding.

On September 30, 1991, when Republican Governor Pete Wilson vetoed the gay rights job bill AB 101, gay Republicans were no longer seen as quirky, rich members of the "other" party, but were recast as betrayers of the gay and lesbian civil rights movement. After all, outraged activists pointed out, the Log Cabin Club had taken out full-page ads urging gays to vote for Wilson over gubernatorial rival Dianne Feinstein because he could be trusted — and he had promised (behind closed doors) to sign AB 101.

A number of gay Republicans in good standing withdrew their membership from the party after the veto, and even joined in their first ever street demonstrations. But other longtime Republicans such as Jim Baird, Frank Ricchiazzi, and Marty Keller stayed with the Log Cabin Club, believing it better to fight from within. Indeed, Ricchiazzi, and Keller, who are both Wilson appointees to government jobs, went to the 1992 Republican National Convention in Houston as Wilson alternate delegates (with Tim Kincaid) and spoke out vigorously against the anti-gay virulence spouted by failed Presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan.

This year, when it was revealed that Los Angeles mayoral candidate Richard Riordan had the backing of the Christian Coalition and the Catholic Church, many gays and lesbians stepped up their opposition. But many others, dissatisfied with Riordan's opponent, longtime gay-supporter Mike Woo, and took a second look at Riordan, who wound up with about a third of the gay vote, according to a *Los Angeles Times* poll.

But it was what Riordan did after he was elected that threw gay activists. Before taking office he rode in the Christopher Street West Pride Parade. And, his enthusiastic supporter City Councilmember Joel Wachs revealed recently, Riordan had such a good time he wanted to stop his car along the parade route — to buy a *Planet Homo* t-shirt he admired!

After taking office, Riordan immediately appointed the first-ever openly gay deputy mayor and Police Commissioner. He has appointed a number of other openly gay people to commission and administration spots since, with more promised along the way.



From left to right: civil rights attorney and state Assembly candidate John Duran, former Friend of Bill David Mixner, and Log Cabin/LA President Brian Perry.

(Photo: Karen Ocamb)

Riordan's unhesitating, pro-gay performance contrasted sharply with the "betrayal" felt by many gays and lesbians over Democratic President Bill Clinton's broken promise on lifting the ban against gays in the military. Clinton's reversal prompted many longtime gay Democrats to call for withdrawal from their party and re-registration as Independents. And if not withdrawal, a rethinking of how gays fit into the party.

Therefore, when the Log Cabin Club sponsored a breakfast with Riordan on October 21, the host committee included many Democratic activists such as ANGLE members David Mixner; state

Assembly prospective candidate John Duran; Dr. Scott Hitt; and attorneys Diane Abbitt and Roberta Bennett. Richard Colbert, the only Republican member of ANGLE, co-chaired the event.

Riordan could not attend, because he was in Washington addressing Congress on the Crime Bill. "It's kind of embarrassing when you have a prom and the prom queen doesn't show up," said one gay Republican who asked not to be identified. But Riordan did address the gathering at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel by video and promised a raincheck. Wachs, deputy mayor Mike Keeley, and Riordan's non-gay chief of staff, Bill McCarley, also spoke on his behalf. Riordan, it turns out, had called Wilson and urged him to sign the AB 260, the needle exchange bill (which Wilson vetoed), and asked LAPD Chief Willie Williams not to interfere with needle exchange programs.

"I think it's marvelous," said Mixner about the breakfast. "I think it's healthy" to have two vigorous partisan organizations — especially "in answer to the Administration when they think we have nowhere else to go."

"What we learned from the military experience," said Abbitt, "is that we must con-

sider the person and their commitment to our community," and not react strictly along party lines.

"As Mike Keeley likes to say," Riordan said on tape, "I'm the first mayor who has lived up to the promises of his opponent." The Mayor then asked for help in unifying and rebuilding Los Angeles, something the gays and lesbians in the crowd seemed to deeply understand and appeared more than willing to do. ▼

O'Leary Goes to Dems' Nat'l Exec Committee

by Karen Ocamb

Open lesbian Jean O'Leary, a longtime Democratic Party fundraiser and former Executive Director of the now-defunct National Gay Rights Advocates, was named to the Executive Committee of the Democratic National Party by Party head David Wilhelm on October 9. The appointment marks the first time an openly lesbian or gay person has been awarded such a key post, one of four openings for which 400 party insiders had vied.

"This is a real honor," says O'Leary. "This is where major decisions are made about the inner workings of the Democratic Party and the Democratic National Convention. I would like to see the Democratic Party make more efforts in the gay and lesbian community."

One aspect she would like to see the party take on is help in coordinating campaigns to fight anti-gay initiatives around the country by providing energy, money for polling and research, and media expertise in helping to define the issues.

California Democratic Party Chair Bill Press says he is "very excited" by O'Leary's appointment.



Jean O'Leary

"Jean is such a strong person to represent the gay and lesbian community, I know she'll do a great job," Press told the *Bay Area Reporter* in an October 18 phone interview. "It shows the continuing commitment on the part of this Administration," he said, and "shows a promise being kept."

O'Leary told the *B.A.R.* her first DNC meeting would be in Ohio in March, followed by a June meeting in San Francisco. ▼

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HIVCare is a program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital,
900 Hyde Street, San Francisco.

National News

New Lou Sheldon Video Pits Blacks Against Gays

by Marghe Covino
Capitol Correspondent

SACRAMENTO — A new video, titled *Gay Rights: Special Rights*, is being sold by Lou Sheldon's Traditional Values Coalition and is being viewed in churches across the country. The video is specifically aimed for the African-American market and will undoubtedly undermine alliances between blacks and gays.

Pam Akins, board member of Sacramento's gay/bisexual Lambda Community Center and an African-American, is extremely concerned. "There are black gays and lesbians that are going into churches in the community to try to mitigate the impact of the video," she said, "but even in that context people in the African-American community are going ballistic when they see this thing."

The video, which was sold by Sheldon in San Francisco at his visit to the Hamilton Baptist Church, juxtaposes Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s civil rights marches and speeches against gay rights marches and speeches. It opens with images of blacks standing shoulder to shoulder at the Lincoln Memorial listening to King speak about

the world he envisions for his children, not to be judged by the color of their skin but by their character, and then dissolves to Larry Kramer, paraphrasing King, saying he envisions a world "where men and women will not be judged by their sexual desires, but by the content of their character."

The video goes on to flash a number of other comparisons on screen: Ever Denied The Right To Vote? Homosexuals - No, African-Americans, Yes; Ever Denied The Right To A Job? Homosexuals - No, African-Americans, Yes - and so forth, ignoring facts and reiterating Sheldon's often used rhetoric that gays "have hijacked the Freedom Train to Selma." The video keeps hammering home the message that white, middle-class, well-educated homosexuals are taking over, stealing the elements of the civil rights movement, and twisting those hallowed principles to gain undeserved legal protections and support from the unsuspecting masses who are taken in by them.

And to judge from the response of some who have viewed the video, it may be paying off for Sheldon.

"I can't reiterate it enough," Akin told the Bay

Area Reporter. "It's a real fear in all the minority communities that gays will be co-opting hard-won economic affirmative action rights, rather than the fact of our seeking protections from discrimination and the need for personal safety protections under federal law. Somehow we've got to get the message across that we've got a body count going," she said.

Amazingly, the October 18, 1993, issue of *Newsweek* makes the point that at least two of the major figures featured in the video — Mississippi Senator Trent Lott and former Attorney General Edwin Meese — have been powerful figures in recent civil rights setbacks for blacks. Lott opposed the Civil Rights Act of 1990, and as a congressman in 1981 tried to reverse the ban on tax exemptions for segregated schools; Meese was the major player in Reagan's war on affirmative action. *Newsweek* reporter Farai Chideya concludes that "Gay Rights, Special Rights" looks more like a cynical appeal to black homophobia than a principled defense of black civil rights."

One of the points *Newsweek* missed is that Sheldon's TVC was also instrumental in lobbying against the 1990 Civil Rights Act. ▼

Coretta Scott King Comes to Sacto To Talk about Hate Violence

by Kate Casa

SACRAMENTO — Civil rights activist Coretta Scott King came to Sacramento Friday, October 22, urging local minority leaders to teach non-violence in response to hate violence.

King's visit comes as the city grapples with a series of at least five firebombings claimed by a previously unknown racist group called the "Aryan Liberation Front."

The widow of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. told a luncheon of state appointees that there is no "quick fix" that will end racism and said the best way to combat hate crimes is to lead a life of non-violence.

One way to begin learning the lessons of her husband, King said, was to send young Sacramentans to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, which she heads. Dr. King was assassinated in 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee.

In a prepared statement, King said her organization's core mission is to "train a critical mass of activists and leaders to apply Martin Luther King Jr.'s teachings in local, national, and international struggles against poverty, racism, war, and violence."

The training "empowers people, not only to struggle more effectively for nonviolent social change, but also to resolve conflicts more peacefully," King said "We feel that this training is more urgently needed in America and



**"If we are
not part of
correcting
the problem
then we
are part
of creating
the problem."
— Coretta
Scott King**

around the world than ever before."

The civil rights leader departed from her prepared remarks Friday to urge local ac-

tivists to do more to fight hate, and to teach children about the contributions that blacks and other minorities have made to American society.

"None of us is really doing all we can do," she admonished.

"We must give young people an alternative to the violence in their lives — violence that is systemic now," King said. "If we are not part of correcting the problem then we are part of creating the problem."

King's remarks focused on the education of young people.

"I would hope we could raise up a generation of young people who are taught to give something back to the community," she said.

She said the holiday honoring the birthday of her late husband serves as an ongoing reminder that children must be taught the history of the modern civil rights movement.

"That doesn't exist in our history books now," King said, "and I feel America needs it to complete the process of democratizing our nation."

Later, King said, "In a democracy you can never make sure your rights are guaranteed. You have to struggle every day. ... You have to keep working to perfect those rights that you have achieved."

Earlier in the day, King received a key to the city from local officials. ▼

Homophobia is OK In Oklahoma — and Congress

by Bob Roeher

Homophobia has reared its ugly head again in Congress. The *Tulsa World* surveyed the Oklahoma congressional delegation to see whether they would hire openly gay people for their staffs. The results, as published on October 3: three said definitely not, one refused comment, while four said that job performance was what counts, although their statements often were made grudgingly and with so many reservations as to question the speaker's sincerity.

Neither side of the political aisle responded much differently from the other. "I have problems with the gay lifestyle to start with," said Democrat Bill Brewster, "I just don't think it is normal behavior. That should tell you what my feeling is." Republican Jim Inhofe said, "I don't think an overtly gay person should be a role model." The homophobia and hatred was clearly bipartisan.

One reaction to the article came from a closeted staff aide to one of the more blatant homophobes. The aide granted a background interview to the *World*, in which he moderately decried the prejudice and began to educate the Congressmen that gays and lesbians are, in fact, everywhere.

"Lawmakers need to realize when they make such statements they may be making them about someone they work with every day, someone they may trust in a key position," said the staffer.

That second article, on October 6, in turn set off what some have described as a "witch hunt" to try to uncover the aide's identity. The aide himself had feared such a reaction and that was why he granted the interview only with the understanding that his identity be protected (He has since gone back into seclusion). So far it seems to have worked.

The pot began boiling in Washington on October 18, when *Roll Call*, the well-respected twice-weekly newspaper that covers Capitol Hill, published a recap of the *World* articles.

Barney Frank, the openly gay Representative from Massachusetts, cited that article when he took to the floor of the House the following day to call for a civil rights bill to protect gays and lesbians from such discrimination.

"I have to note," said Frank, "if we were a private corporation located here, we would be covered by the District of Columbia's law that says you cannot discriminate against people based on their sexual orientation."

House Minority Whip Newt Gingrich responded through the media: "How can Barney Frank suggest that we impose on a member of Congress a standard which that member of Congress may regard as against his religion?" Gingrich went on to say that "your private life should be kept private" and that he had no policy against open homosexuals on his staff.

Frank countered with a letter that decried Gingrich's

"defending the right of Members of the House blatantly to discriminate against gay men and lesbians simply on the basis of their being gay or lesbian." It outlined a number of instances of how "people discriminating evoke a religious reason," rightly or wrongly, to justify their bigotry.

**The
homophobia
and hatred
was clearly
bipartisan.**

"Your statement goes beyond the fact that such discrimination [on the basis of sexual orientation] is now not prohibited, to legitimize it because it is religiously based," the letter concluded. It was signed by sixteen Democratic members of the House.

While this dialogue was playing out, Michael Petrelis, spokesperson for the new group Gay & Lesbian Americans, condemned the anti-gay employment policies of the three Oklahoma Congressmen. The group called on Speaker of the House Tom Foley to condemn those policies and show real leadership in pushing for a gay and lesbian civil rights bill.

Foley was pressed on the issue at his daily news conference. He waffled. "Foley Denounces Gay Bias Remarks, Sort Of" read the headline in the *Washington Post*. The Speaker felt it was important to allow members to make "personal judgments on the individuals that they hire in their personal offices."

The waffling was so intense that Foley even took the rare step of issuing a clarification later in the day. It said that he "in no way intended to endorse any inappropriate bias." Left unstated was what the Speaker felt were appropriate biases.

Petrelis attacked Foley's position, calling him a "sissy" for failing to take a stronger stand. "If they had said they would not hire a black, a Jew, or a woman," Petrelis told the media, "I'm sure Foley would have strongly condemned that."

The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) sent letters to all members of Congress inquiring about their hiring policies vis-a-vis sexual orientation. That letter was sent on October 21; HRCF hopes to announce the results after the first of the year.

One Capitol Hill staffer said that most of the letters would be ignored, with only the hard core of Congress members who support the gay and lesbian community bothering to return them.

HRCF spokesman Gregory King acknowledged the likelihood of that outcome. He said HRCF wanted to use the letter and follow up opportuni-

ties to educate members of Congress to support the gay and lesbian civil rights bill now being redrafted.

When pressed as to why HRCF did not put together a broader coalition of women's, civil rights, and other groups to send out a more inclusive survey that would be more likely to be returned, King seemed interested in the idea and said he would pass it along.

This issue of Congressional homophobia — and a leadership failure to address it — illustrates anew the two-faced nature of Congress, which regularly exempts itself from laws it passes for the rest of the nation. Included in that are coverage of civil rights, fair employment and compensation, and occupational health and safety standards.

Congress retains for itself the right to be bigots, slave drivers, misogynists, and homophobes, while demanding that all other national employees adhere to higher standards. Congress is moving to change that, but the drafting of the legislation is slow, does not cover sexual orientation, and — if Foley's perspective is enacted — would still leave large areas of exemption.

This is the environment in which the lesbian and gay community must struggle to enact a national civil rights bill to protect itself. ▼



Steve Simon, President

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Dear Mr. Gingrich:

We were extremely disappointed to see you quoted in the *Washington Times* for Thursday, October 21 defending the right of Members of the House blatantly to discriminate against gay men and lesbians simply on the basis of their being gay or lesbian, no matter how diligent they are, how well behaved they are, etc.

Your criticism of those who oppose such discrimination when the people discriminating evoke a religious reason has implications far beyond the question of overt discrimination against gay men and lesbians. At various times in American history, people have used religious reasons as a basis for refusing to hire people of other religions, women, and members of racial minorities. The use of religion as a basis for racial segregation is, of course, a very familiar one to all of us, and we assume as a historian you were aware of this when you made your statement. Jews have also encountered discrimination from those who felt that their presence would dilute the "Christian atmosphere" of a particular work place. And women have been and still are victimized of people who believe that the Bible mandates separation of the sexes, and in some cases, a subordinate role for women. Is it your position that it is wrong to criticize the subordination of women in Iran or Saudi Arabia because that subordination is mandated by the interpretation of Islam prevailing in those societies?

We note that your statement does not appear to leave room to judge whether or not the religious objection is a logically or morally sound one or not. Your statement is simply that one should not criticize others if they have a religious basis for discriminating. If in fact you mean to say that there are some religious objections that are better than others, we would be interested in what scriptural text or religious institution you would have us look to in discriminating between religious bases for discriminating.

We are aware that nothing in the House rules now prohibits Members from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation. But your statement goes beyond the fact that such discrimination is now not prohibited to legitimize it because it is religiously based, and for a member of the Republican leadership to make such a statement seems to us to encourage behavior in Members of the House which contrasts with our ideals of fair treatment.

Rep. Barney Frank
Rep. George Miller
Rep. Neil Abercrombie
Rep. John Lewis
Rep. Pat Schroeder
Rep. Bruce Vento
Rep. Louise Slaughter
Rep. Rosa DeLauro

Rep. Gerry Studds
Rep. Anna Eschoo
Rep. Lyn Schenk
Rep. Bill Richardson
Rep. Lynn Woolsey
Rep. Cynthia McKinney
Rep. Peter DeFazio
Rep. Carolyn Maloney

'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Comes to the Private Sector

by Mike Salinas

Michael Bowers, the Georgia Attorney General whose name will forever be tied to the Supreme Court's anti-gay *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision, is back in the news. This time, for arguing before a U.S. District Court judge that lesbians and gays who come out of the closet forfeit the right to retain their jobs.

Judge Richard Freeman, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, ruled in Bowers's favor — thereby bringing the Clinton Administration's "don't ask, don't tell" policy to the private sector. Freeman's ruling, handed down in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta Division, was in response to a suit brought by Georgia lesbian attorney Robin Shahar over an employment dispute with Bowers himself.

In 1990, Shahar worked as an intern in the Georgia Department of Law, which is headed by Bowers. One year later, Shahar was offered a job in the office. But when

the A.G. learned that Shahar planned to marry her female lover in a private ceremony conducted by a rabbi, he withdrew the job offer.

Shahar sued the A.G.'s office, stating her religious rights and her right to associate with her lover had been violated. The judge disagreed, ruling that Bowers had a right to fire lesbians and gays, partially because of the very sodomy law he helped defend in 1986: "Members of the public could view the defendant [Bowers] as acting inconsistently if he employed [Shahar]," Freeman wrote in his decision.

The judge also explicitly ruled that the policy was not discriminatory, according to the *Journal*, because it barred the hiring of only gays and lesbians who made their sexual orientation known.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which represented Shahar in the case, has said it will appeal Freeman's ruling. ▽

Military

(Continued from page 1)

cause U.S. Solicitor General Drew Days "still was not ready to argue that an emergency stay was necessary."

Days apparently has "gummed up the works," McGuire says, launching "a legitimate dispute within the government about whether they should be trying to overturn the injunction on an emergency basis." The controversy appears to be between the Departments of Justice and Defense, according to the Post's source in the Justice Department.

A grand a day

The commotion was prompted by a September 30 order issued by U.S. District Court Judge Terry Hatter that requires the military to stop enforcing the ban against gays in the military "in the absence of proven sexual conduct — if such conduct is proven to interfere with the military mission of the armed forces of the United States." Failure to obey his order would subject the government to possible contempt of court charges and a \$10,000 a day fine.

In an October 1 memo, Assistant Secretary of Defense Edwin Dorn complied with Hatter's order, telling the Pentagon to halt all discharges or transfers to inactive status "solely on the basis



Barbara Bush and former Marine of the Year, Sergeant Justin Elzie.

of homosexual orientation or statements of homosexuality." In an October 8 interview with the *Los Angeles Times*, Dorn said, "This is the law of the land for the moment. We have to comply."

The government appealed to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, but a three-judge panel voted unanimously to let Hatter's order stand. Until the government formally files a motion in the U.S. Supreme Court in November as expected, and the high court intervenes (if it does), the ban is temporarily lifted. The same three-judge 9th Circuit panel is expected to hear arguments on the constitutionality of the ban as it relates to the Meinhold case in December.



John McGuire, Esquire.

The Elzie case

In the meantime, Marine Sergeant Justin Elzie was taken off "reserved status" and returned to active duty, his attorney, Lanny Breuer, told the *B.A.R.* October 21. Elzie, an 11-year veteran who was named Marine of the Year in 1989, has returned to his job as a requisition clerk at Camp Lejeune.

Elzie got the news three days before he was to go to court in a lawsuit he and Breuer filed September 7 asking a federal judge in Washington D.C. to allow him to remain on active duty pending the outcome of his case challenging the constitutionality of the ban.

If the Supreme Court decides to stay Hatter's order, Breuer says, they will proceed with Elzie's request for

direct relief.

McGuire told the *B.A.R.* he is "saddened" by the government's legal persistence. "President Clinton has, under Judge Hatter's injunction, the very policy he promised the gay community," McGuire said. "Now he's instructing his Justice Department to ask the Supreme Court to overturn it."

The *Los Angeles Times* quoted an unnamed "senior government official" on October 20, as saying the government felt it had a duty to follow up because "we made a deal" — referring to "compromise" hashed out between the administration, the military, and ban proponents such as Nunn.

However, while not pre-

(Continued on next page)

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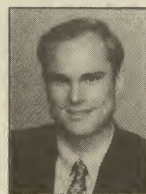
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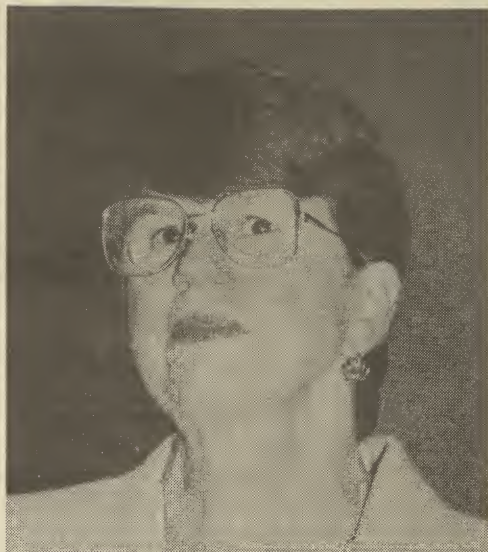


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U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno is pursuing the government's appeal to the Supreme Court of Judge Hatter's decision. (Photo: Judi Parks)

(Continued from previous page)

dicting what the Supreme Court will do, McGuire does note that the government has been claiming it is seeking "emergency relief" — but was apparently willing to wait until November to have the high court hear their motion

may undermine the government's case.

"With each passing day the injunction provides evidence that they don't need a discriminatory policy," McGuire said. "Whatever horrible and bizarre things they said would happen, haven't happened."

The Dunning case

Amy Brown, attorney for Naval Reserve Lieutenant Zoe Dunning, agrees. Dunning, who came out in January based on Clinton's promise to lift the ban, has been reporting for active duty at Alameda Naval Base under Hatter's decision. A Naval board previously recommended her discharge.

"As far as we know she has a lot of support from her co-workers and superiors, many of whom testified on her behalf," Brown told the B.A.R. And as long as Hatter's order remains in effect, there will be "even more witnesses that her sexual orientation didn't effect her or their performance. Her unit is living proof of that. She's been accepted back into the unit with no problems."

Brown is also "very disappointed" that the Clinton Administration is appealing Hatter's ruling. She points out that it was precisely at this point in the Canadian debate over integrating gays in their military, that the government elected not to appeal a judge's order, effectively ending their ban. She also finds it "very upsetting" that U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and Solicitor General Drew Davis — both known for their staunch support for civil rights — are the attorneys pursuing the appeals. Brown would like to believe that the government attorneys are "dragging their feet on purpose," but, she says, she's "still skeptical, given the broken promises of the Clinton campaign." ▼

NYC Mayoral Hopeful Campaigns on Bigotry

Marlin: I'm Not a Bigot, I'm Just Trying To Unite Catholics, Jews, Evangelicals Against Gays

United Press International

NEW YORK — Conservative and Right-to-Life mayoral candidate George Marlin Tuesday proudly defended an error-laced campaign fundraising letter sent nationwide that attacked "militant gay rights radicals."

"And if we in New York don't stop the militant gay rights radicals now, we'll soon have a lot more to worry about than what's being taught in our schools," Marlin's four-page letter said.

Marlin said his campaign has mailed a quarter of a million copies of the letter that condemned gay civil rights and city school teachings encouraging AIDS prevention and tolerance of gay men and lesbians.

Outside City Hall, Marlin defended the letter, insisting he was not anti-gay or promoting hate, but trying to unite "Roman Catholics, Orthodox Jews and Evangelical Christians" against the "homosexual agenda."

"I'm saying I don't support special rights based on behavior," Marlin said.

Pointing to marketing claims by gay publications that the gay community has

financial clout, he said, "They are a powerful lobby. They're influential in City Hall."

The letter made numerous false or unsubstantiated claims.

It said the cars of three local school board members were firebombed during the bitter debates about the "Children of the Rainbow" school program to promote tolerance of different groups.

A Board of Education spokesman said one such claim was made but never substantiated.

The letter correctly said that condoms would be given to students as part of efforts to curb the spread of AIDS.

But it went on to say falsely that the curriculum would have schools "advocate homosexual lifestyles and explanations of devices used during homosexual intercourse."

The letter also attacked a proposed state gay rights bill supported by the Republican-Liberal and Democratic mayoral candidates.

"And the most alarming thing is, the gay rights lobby has so much money and power that politicians are falling right into lock-step and backing their dangerous agenda," Marlin's letter said. ▼

Military Law Watch

What's Happening In the Field?

In Germany, a servicemember who expressed support for lifting the ban to several co-workers was physically assaulted twice, despite requests to his unit commander to stop the violence. He was subsequently discharged as being unfit for military service. Two of his friends who supported his right to voice his opinion are now reportedly under investigation.

•In California, a straight servicemember suspected of being gay has returned to his quarters to find his bed sheets torn and the words "Faggot" written above his bed.

•One Marine Corps base has reportedly developed written guidelines on how to identify homosexuals for potential investigation and discharge, listing such "homosexual qualities" as being a top performer who works long hours and spends limited time at unit social functions.

•One man is being dis-

charged for dancing with another man at a straight bar. The military is not discharging the man they believe to be straight; they are discharging only the man they allege to be gay, despite the fact they engaged in the same conduct.

•In the midwest, one unit is discharging one of its leading officers despite being understaffed and having no qualified replacement. The discharge is based on a letter from the officer to his commander stating that he is gay. The officer says he wrote the letter because his personal honor and integrity required him to address the misinformation and intolerance characterizing the command climate in his unit.

•In San Diego, the military raided the home of a civilian to look for evidence of an alleged relationship between the civilian and a military member.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network is currently tracking 23 such cases. ▼

Guidelines on how to identify homosexuals for potential investigation and discharge include such "homosexual qualities" as being a top performer who works long hours and spends limited time at unit social functions.

The Military Law Watch is prepared by the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a new national organization that links servicemembers affected by the ban to lawyers. ▼

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Obituaries

Jeffrey C. Allen

Jan. 24, 1953-Sept. 29, 1993

Jeff passed away quickly, peacefully, and without suffering on Wednesday evening, with Terry "little brother" Slivick by his side along with close friends Angela Hawkins, TJ McDaniel, and Bill Cuadro.

Jeff was a third-generation Californian, son of Margaret and Robert Allen and close-hearted friend of his recently deceased aunt, Helen Kingsley. Jeff is survived by close friends Mark Powley, Earl Woodward, Bill Landbaum, and Robert and Adeline Johnson, whom Jeff loved dearly and

were a very important part of his life. Jeff's journey included owning a gay bar in Santa Fe and a career in computers and engineering in California before he retired to the Russian River area to live the rest of his life peacefully. As with too many of our friends, Jeff left us far too early in life due to complications from AIDS. He was a man who always gave and saw no evil in anyone. We will miss you, Jeff, and you will always be in our hearts.

For information, call Terry at (707) 865-9114.

P.S. Jeff, you will always be the wind beneath my wings, and I will always love you. — Terry. ▽

Jimmy Cuff

September 28, 1993

My Dear Pal — Guerneville will never be the same without you. The flower gardens you designed all over town bowed their petals in sorrow on the 28th of September at 12 noon, then rose up again in colorful splendor, because you gave me life with your gentle touch. All of the gardens in Guerneville will create in your honor an array of colors and sweet aromas for years to come. They honor you as I do for touching us with your love.

We are strong knowing you are in your ultimate garden in heaven. Though the garden on Drake Road never got off the ground as planned, we created a garden of joy between ourselves; people saw what true friendship was. I miss you, but I'll be there with you as soon as I'm called. I promise until that day that the garden in my heart will bloom always. I believe no one in town could pass a flower and not think of you!

Myself, Bobby, Eileen, Vickie, Orny, Eddie, April, Peter, and of course, your dog Tarras know you're safe and happy! Just do me one favor: don't take over all the gardens in heaven. Save one for me to hoe! Ho!

No donations — just a thought — love each other gently, honestly, purely. Try a little tenderness. That's all.

— Greg Dmszo ▽

Jose L. Escovedo

Sept. 18, 1951-Oct. 17, 1993

There is a traditional phrase in Spanish which translates something like this: "When a friend is no longer present, leaving an empty space, it is said that no one else can ever fill the space of that friend."

Jose Luis moved on to another life after living with AIDS since 1990.

In the early '80s he moved to Chicago from Mexico City. He was a restaurant worker for several years, earning extra money to send back to his mom and to help with her expenses.

After testing HIV positive, Jose moved to San Francisco as he had heard that there were many wonderful groups here that provided support.

Jose was a wonderful friend. We had many good times walking in the park and around the city. The Golden Gate Bridge was his favorite place to go.

Jose's mother, Maria de Jesus, and friends are very thankful to Dr. Nidia Rosales from the Latino AIDS Service and to the many caregivers on Ward 5A of SF General. Also, the residents at 1594 Market where Jose spent his last months.

He is survived by his mother, Maria de Jesus, several brothers and sisters, and his friends, Jose Vega, Brent Mason, and Jorge. ▽

James L. Grier

Feb. 23, 1950-Oct. 15, 1993

Beautiful James left us peacefully of AIDS in Portland, Oregon on October 15.

Always a leader, James grew up in New York State, graduated from Wesleyan University in French and Film, traveled in Europe and New York City before moving to San Francisco in 1974

or '75.

James moved to Portland in the early '80s and returned to San Francisco frequently to see the many friends he maintained here.

A beautiful singer, an independent thinker, a sexual libertine, James affected most everyone who knew him and will continue to live in our memories. ▽

John William Hollenbach

1950-1993

Facing the future head-on with dignity, humor, and a compassion for others seldom seen, John passed from this life on Oct. 17. John was born in Wadsworth, Ohio; graduated from Morehead State University, in Morehead, Ky.; and lived in Los Angeles, New York, and finally in San Francisco.

John worked in the "rag trade" for many major department stores throughout his career. His last employer was Neiman Marcus in the city. John loved travel, anything French (especially Paris), languages, history, classical music, and books based on fact.

John is survived by his parents, Jack and Betty of Wadsworth; his sister, Dianne, and nephew, Leif, of Atlanta Ga.; and his dear friend Patrick.

John wrote a few months ago: *I never thought of it as a gift, this waltz toward uncertainty. Pain and misery were givens, the rewards unexpected. Confidence and strength born of anguish, the wisdom of not knowing all the answers, the humor in the midst of hopelessness, last gifts to a dying man. The most cherished gift, the one that gives worth to the journey, hides deep in the heart. The gift, the treasure of self.*

Rest in peace, my friend. ▽

Ron Hendricks Ph.D.

Sept. 16, 1953-Dec. 16, 1992

On Dec. 16, 1992, Ron Hendricks drove to the High Sierra to end his life amid the beauties of nature. He left letters to his family and friends assuring them that he was doing this to spare himself and them further sufferings as he battled AIDS. Although he indicated where his body was to be found, the great snowfalls of this past winter prevented this, and two exhaustive searches by the authorities this summer turned up nothing. Thus, it now appears that his body may lie forever in the strong arms of the mountains he loved so dearly.

Ron was born in Brownsville, Texas, on Sept. 16, 1953, to Silvia and Niel Hendricks. He had six sisters, Tina, Ila, Lisa, Ruthie, Nettie, and Melanie, and a brother, Jimmie. Among his many relatives, two aunts were especially important: Imelda van Eckan and Ada Duarte. After his father divorced and remarried, Ron also had a stepmother, Yoshi, and a stepsister, Angie. All these family members touched Ron's heart very deeply.

Ron loved many things in life: birds, cats, flowers, mountains, language, literature, music, British TV dramas, German Christmas Traditions, cooking, cowboy dancing, gay/feminist/left politics, and, above all, people. He was sensitive, witty, and a great storyteller. His connections with those he loved were complex and often painful, for him and for them. But these relationships were always filled with great feeling, and all of us who were touched by his troubled heart were forever blessed — perhaps far more than we knew at the time.

Ron had many, many loved and loving friends, including Charlotte Schacke, Gaby West, Carlos Zarabozo, Mirin Beitia, Renate Albrecht, and Usche Benham. His gay friends included Alan Sable, Paul Schwalin, David Thompson, and Bill Trumbo of San Francisco; Jim Head of Seattle; and Don Kucinski of Ithaca, N.Y. A memorial was held for Ron by Don and the family in Ithaca on August 7, 1993. Friends in San Francisco who wish to may contact Ila Hendricks at 931-3342 or Alan Sable at 558-8828. ▽

Ronald E. Lamb aka "Auntie Ceil"

May 3, 1951-Oct. 16, 1993

Ron passed quietly to the next plane on Saturday, Oct. 16, after nearly six years of AIDS-related illness.

Ron was known throughout the Polk Street area for many, many years, since moving to San Francisco from Seattle in 1970. His sense of humor and his need to mother homeless "kitties" made him a well-liked and well-loved individual. He will also be remembered by his many former co-workers in Metropolitan Life's Group Administration offices in the city.

Ron is survived by his mom, Elsie; dad, Gene; and siblings, Joanne and Patty. His close friends and sisters Jack (Bubbles), Frank (Fanny), Bill, and Tom will miss him, but will never forget him.

A gathering of friends will be held at Chez Mollet, Wednesday Nov. 3, between 6:30 and 8 p.m. Ron asked that donations be made to your favorite AIDS-related charities in his memory. ▽

Billy Howard McKinney

Jan. 27, 1951-Sept. 21, 1993

Son, father, grandfather, brother, friend, and lover. Billy's life was full — he did everything he had wanted to do. Billy, raised in North Carolina, traveled extensively throughout the U.S., and made good friends wherever he went — and he loved every minute. Billy lived in San Francisco for the last four years of his life, but went home to North Carolina, where he died peacefully after a long and painful battle with AIDS. At the time of his death, his mother and father were with him, just as Billy had wished.

Everyone who knew Billy would agree that Billy was one exceptional, kind, and loving man, that he was generous to a fault, and that his Southern charm was irresistible. Billy's warmth and genuine caring for others won over all of those he met.

Billy is survived by his parents, Charles and Hazel; son, Bryant; grandson, Ryan; brothers, Charles, Roger and Lawrence; and his beloved sister, Carol, as well as innumerable friends across the country. Bill will be missed greatly by all who knew him, and we all wish him a good journey.

A memorial service is scheduled at Metropolitan Community Church (150 Eureka at 18th St.) on Saturday, Oct. 30, at 2:00 p.m.

Following Billy's wishes, his parents have brought his ashes from North Carolina to be scattered in San Francisco (the city Billy loved best). In lieu of flowers, donations may be made, in Billy's name, to the AIDS Emergency Fund (1540 Market St., No. 320, SF, CA 94102, tel. 558-6999). ▽

Joseph "Max" Marotta

Feb. 26, 1954-Oct. 26, 1993

Dear Max passed away from AIDS complications on Tuesday morning, October 26.

A native of Brooklyn, Max moved to San Francisco in 1989 and his smiling face became a fixture of our community. During his lifetime, Max developed an avid following for Broadway musicals and became one of Barbra Streisand's most ardent fans, collecting everything he could about her.

Max lost a leg in a car accident in New York but this never slowed him down. No matter what obstacles life placed in his way, he never lost his spirit or cheerfulness.

He will be deeply missed by his lover Mark and good friends Ed and Dennis in San Diego. Max would like to express his immense gratitude to the wonderful staff at Health Care Center One and St. Mary's Care Unit, 4S, for all the care and thoughtfulness they extended to him during his final months. Max, see you soon on the "Great White Way." ▽

Ron E. Miori

Sept. 12, 1950–Oct. 20, 1993

Ron Miori died of AIDS peacefully at Davies Medical Center on Oct. 20. He is survived by his partner, Michael Barron; his parents, Margie and Paul Miori; and his sisters, Linda Byrd and Brigitte Hogsted.



Ron was active in 12-step programs, the Live and Let Live Retreat, MCC-SF, and Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco. He was involved in the Buddy Project in Dallas and the Shanti Project in Phoenix.

Ron moved to San Francisco in 1988, by way of Phoenix, Houston, Dallas, New Orleans and his birthplace of Victoria, Texas. He graduated from Texas A&M in 1972 and went on to work for Exxon and other oil companies and MCI in land management. Ron loved to travel, and loved to mug for the camera. He made the best chicken-fried steak and Coca-Cola cake. He was a good friend, sponsor, and devoted partner. His marriage to Mike in August was one of the happiest moments of his life, one that he was very glad to share with all the friends who gathered for the event. Ron was committed to spiritual growth his whole life. He was very grateful for his recovery and his relationship with The Creator and St. Mary.

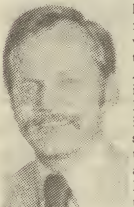
Ron fought a long and courageous battle against AIDS, and has finally surrendered. Ron is at peace now with his Creator, who gives comfort to the many friends and family who mourn him.

A memorial service will be held at Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco, 150 Eureka Street, on Saturday, Oct. 30, at 3:00 p.m. ▽

David Anders Myhre

Dec. 6, 1940–Oct. 14, 1993

Our friend David has entered the light on a different plane, with his long-time friend Alexander holding his hand.



David was born in Wisconsin, a second-generation Norwegian and reared in Delaware. He attended Dartmouth for two years, then received a BA from the University of Delaware.

David moved to San Francisco in December 1966, where he met another to-become long-time friend, Jan Durbin. David was an insurance underwriter for Firemans Fund and Blue Cross. He met Andy, another to-become long-time friend, and became a lead-chef at the Grubsteak and a "Grubette." Leaving there, he became a senior evaluator at City College and held the post of assistant registrar for seven years.

Even after being diagnosed with AIDS, he fought the disease bravely for five years before it took him from us. David was a season ticket holder with the SF Symphony for 12 years, loved camping in the great outdoors, gardening, and attended many SOMA bike runs. He was a great cook and loved life to its fullest.

David's ashes will be scattered by Alexander and Jan, who miss him greatly. A celebration of life is planned. For information, call Alexander (863-7667) or Jan (922-8023). ▽

David A.S. Namauleg

September 21, 1993



David A.S. Namauleg, age 37, died at home in the arms of his lover on Sept. 21, following a courageous battle with AIDS. A memorial service was held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church of Fort Bragg on Sept. 26. Burial followed on Sept. 27, at Rose Memorial Cemetery in Fort Bragg, California.

David was born in Tamuning, Guam, USA, and moved with his family to Hawaii and then California in 1964. He lived in the Central Valley and moved to San Francisco after high school. He worked at PG&E and started his own catering business after receiving a college degree from Golden Gate University.

He and his lover, Moss Butler, moved to Fort Bragg in 1981, and recently lived

ed part of the time in Hilo, Hawaii. He was a partner in the Casa Del Noyo Bed and Breakfast Inn and the owner of Treats of the Trade, a catering business, and Flower Treats, a flower shop. He also worked at the Hill House and lastly at the MacCallum House Restaurant.

David was an active member of the Orchid Society and the Footlighters Theatre Group, where he acted, designed, and directed plays. He volunteered at Access, the Mendocino Coast AIDS network. His hobbies were dancing, decorating, and entertaining his many friends.

He is survived by his partner of 13 years, Moss Butler, sisters, Betty Lou Haywood, Elaine Namauleg, and Genny Holmes of Haslet, Texas, Florence Pieschata of Alameda; brother, Cal Namauleg of Marysville; and numerous nieces and nephew of the large Namauleg family.

His creativity and joy of life will be missed by family, extended family, and friends.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Access, P.O. Box 633, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. ▽

Eric Vonn Wilson

1951–1993

Born 1951, passed away September 30, 1993 of pneumonia, complications of leukemia.



Eric was a participant in the first and second Gay Games in basketball. His lifelong ambition was to be a musician. Born in Cleveland, he lived in Akron, OH; Norfolk, VA; and Roanoke, VA; where he died. Eric "Darling" was a constant joy. His keen observations on people and life were always right on target. Eric, you're never going to know how much you will be missed — until we meet again. ▽

Eric was a participant in the first and second Gay Games in basketball. His lifelong ambition was to be a musician. Born in Cleveland, he lived in Akron, OH; Norfolk, VA; and Roanoke, VA; where he died. Eric "Darling" was a constant joy. His keen observations on people and life were always right on target. Eric, you're never going to know how much you will be missed — until we meet again. ▽

Bruce Lynn Seaboch

March 19, 1950–Oct. 21, 1993



As the quality of his life drained from him like water from a glass, Bruce, in true fashion, selected the date of the inevitable to begin the final journey. His smile, his laugh, his earthy wisdom, the warmth of a true and fine man will long be missed. The world is less for his absence.

He leaves his lover of over 13 years, Brian. He is also survived by his mother, Grace; brothers, Mick and Tony; and his beloved tortoisoes, Her-camer and Ralph. My man-child, you will always be alive in my heart. Always.

Donations can be sent to Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Land Acquisition Only, P.O. Box 2910, San Bernardino, CA 92406. ▽

Obituary Policy

Due to an unfortunately large number of obituaries, the *Bay Area Reporter* has been forced to change its obituary policy.

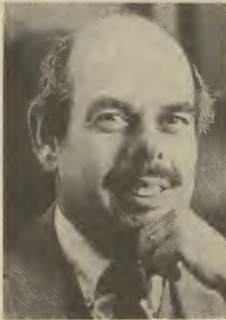
We must now restrict obits to 200 words. And please, no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

Write name of person on back of photo. If you include a stamped envelope to have the photo returned, please write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m. ▽

The Warnings Keep Coming: Tuberculosis Is Up 20 Percent

by Douglas A. Levy
UPI Science Editor



Rep. Henry Waxman

WASHINGTON — A steady 20 percent annual increase in the number of tuberculosis cases poses "an especially serious threat" to the United States and requires federal action, a congressional study said Thursday, October 7.

The Office of Technology Assessment said the number of new cases of the lung infection increased an average 20 percent a year since 1985, when a 30-year decline ended.

"Unchecked, this recent trend represents an especially serious threat to economically disadvantaged communities already saddled with significant social problems including poverty and poor health," said Dr. Michael Gluck, the report's lead author.

The OTA said President Bill Clinton's administration should request sufficient funds from Congress for a national action plan against TB.

At a news conference releasing the report, Senators Edward Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat, and Orrin Hatch, a Republican from Utah, called for tripling the federal budget to fight TB.

Hatch compared the TB situation to the early years of the AIDS epidemic, when public health experts pleaded for funds but received little federal support.

An estimated ten million to 15 million people are infected with the TB bacteria but are not sick. A total of 26,673 people in the United States were diagnosed with the disease in 1992.

TB has been a special problem among the poor, drug abusers, prison inmates and people infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Congressman Edolphus Townes, a Democrat from New York state, noted an

overwhelming majority of people infected with active tuberculosis are black or Hispanic.

Congressman Henry Waxman, a California Democrat, blamed the Reagan, Bush, and Clinton administrations for ignoring warnings about tuberculosis.

"All three administrations — on a bipartisan basis — have ignored the warnings of the administration scientists and public health researchers. If there is such a thing as public health malpractice, it seems to me we have three guilty administrations," said Waxman.

Gluck said although TB is transmitted through the air, "brief casual contact is unlikely to transmit [the disease]." "But the risk is not zero," he added.

Controlling its spread requires treating people who have it, which is difficult because one out of every four TB-infected individuals do not complete treatment, Gluck said.

Inability to pay for treatment is only part of the problem, he said. Many TB victims are homeless or imprisoned and have limited access to medical care. ▽

Gays Get Screwed Again at Ohio State

United Press Interantional

COLUMBUS — Ohio State University has reversed its decision to allow gay and lesbian couples to live in the school's 396-unit Buckeye Village.

Last May the school administration recommended, pending board of trustees approval, to permit gay and lesbian couples who signed an affidavit of "domestic partnership" to live in the housing unit. But strong opposition from fundamentalist and religious groups forced to university to reconsider its decision.

OSU President Gordon Gee said Friday, September 10, he has removed from consideration any change in the housing policy, deciding to maintain the "status quo."

Gee said he made his decision after discussions with many people, including individual conversations with members of the school's board of trustees.

The current policy, which will remain in effect, allows only married couples and single parents to live in the area. ▽

I always wondered what I could do to help...."

If you are HIV+ and healthy (over 400 t-cells), you may be able to help the fight against AIDS by donating your plasma.

If you qualify you will receive:

- free lab tests
- quarterly physicals
- monetary compensation
- respect and appreciation

415-399-0971

(Continued from page 8)

To create one department to handle the myriad dealings with city personnel is a concept whose time has come. It makes sense to us to consolidate most of the city programs dealing with workers, i.e., certain functions of the Civil Service Commission, the Health Board, the Employee Relations Office and personnel functions of the Department of Public Health. The supervisors could also transfer worker compensation functions handled by the retirement board to the new department. We think it a good idea and ask you to VOTE YES on PROPOSITION L.

We firmly believe that the city would be well served by a separate commission to handle the operations of the MUNI. If that was what this commission would do, we would strongly support it. But they want to incorporate the Parking Commission into this operation at a later date. Talk about a monumental special interest commission! The Parking Commission was just created and is doing an excellent job, so leave it alone. Bring back a MUNI Railway Only Commission and we will support it. Both areas deserve to be served by separate commissions. We urge a NO VOTE on PROPOSITION M.

Let's hope this is not a re-run of the last time we tried to reform the City Charter. The Charter is hopelessly outdated and needs updating and reworking to bring it into modern times. The opponents to this jam the authority that is already there to change it. A Yes Vote would tell our elected leaders that we need and want a change. Proof that change would reduce this current ballot to less than half. **VOTE YES on N's Reform and Change.**

Why not give it a try: if it doesn't work, the board doesn't have to hold community meetings. It might get some more disgruntled citizens off their butts and into a committee meeting close to home. Experience has shown us, however, that the same people will attend either or both. **VOTE YES** on 0. It's worth a try.

CALL (415) 282-8960

In memoriam of our founder Cecil Ray De Loach 1952-1991

1-800-422-1314

If the preceding proposition passes, it would not be necessary to have the full board hold meetings outside of City Hall. All Supervisors could attend committee meetings and voice their opinions, as they do now. VOTE NO on PROPOSITION "P"

Another Charter change to help streamline the purchasing of goods needed by the city. It would help the city purchaser to move goods and orders faster. Bids would still be required on major purchases. The purchaser would still have to defend his awarding of any contract on bid. **VOTE YES on PROPOSITION O.**

Most retirees have a small say in their retirement boards, ours do not. We think they should. They would be allowed to vote for the three elected members. In addition, it would allow one retired to serve on the board if he or she were elected. Another cleanup act in the charter. **VOTE YES on PROPOSITION R.**

As more and more public money comes up for museums and the arts, it's up to their trustees to generate money. Increasing the trustees and having certain residency requirements added would allow the trustees to broaden their donor bases. The extra income generated would benefit all citizens of San Francisco. VOTE YES on PROPOSITION 5.

This would increase the possibility of more women and minorities in the promotion process. Proposition T would also allow the Chief to appoint two Deputy Chiefs, chosen from the rank of Assistant Chief or Battalion Chief. It merits your support. VOTE YES on PROPOSITION T.

This would clean up some of the archaic voting practices as dictated by the current city charter. Interesting to note that no one opposes this in the ballot. Neither shall we—**VOTE YES on U** and clean up our election proceedings.

We don't believe this will solve the problems facing the city in welfare, homelessness, or other poverty areas. It's true that G.A. fraud is on the increase and that Alameda and Los Angeles Counties now require residency and fingerprinting for G.A. But the issue must be addressed on a state and national level, not on county levels. While we may sympathize and agree with the mayor on some issues, this is not one of them. VOTE NO on PROPOSITION V.

Not all of our elected officials are millionaires, and most rely on friends accounts to do all we demand they do. Our supervisors are poorly paid, and what was a part time job has become full time without the benefits of salary. We think \$250.00 a year is a small amount to supplement their salaries. Proposition "X" takes into account the strongarming of some of our elected officials. Be fair—VOTE YES on PROPOSITION W.

Some of these fundraisers have been used to
guy or peddle influence. It's a shame that all
must pay the piper for the few who misused
these funds. As long as the \$500 campaign limit
is in place, it will give all a more level playing
field. We still support limiting the amount to
\$250 per year. VOTE YES on PROPOSITION
X

We note that most folks supporting this proposition are those most closely involved in the taxicab industry. We do not believe that more permits are necessary. If the city did not create the expensive medallion system, we might not have this on the ballot. This seems to be a lose-lose situation. VOTE NO on PROPOSITION Y.

We think the current system as handled by NORCAL is doing fine. We do not need another level of bureaucracy. This looks like a power grab by Quentin and some of his friends for their own selfish reasons. The system is working. Leave it alone.

Neither of these are even worth discussing and we urge you to VOTE NO on both "AA" and "BB."

The right to vote on low rent housing projects should be left up to voters in each community. This proposition would allow the legislature to build affordable housing where it wanted. We can smell the pork barrel coming on this one. Protect your vote and VOTE NO on 168.

We have trouble with this one, as it is a budget reform measure placed on the ballot by those same people who hold up the budget each year, i.e., the legislature. They are stepping on each others' toes to foul up the veto and veto override on individual law changes.

Here come the schools again—trying to get an even larger slice of the tax pie. This one would change the 2/3 vote on bond issues to a simple majority to exceed the one percent limit on property taxes. The schools in this state are in disarray and the only answer school boards come up with is more and more tax money. Let's try to solve and define what is actually wrong with schools, i.e. no parental guidance. Public schools need to survive, but pouring money into this open pit is not the only answer. VOTE NO on Proposition 170.

This provides a set of ordinances allowing base year transfers of destroyed/damaged property to replacement property from one county to another. This could seriously impact some of our poorer counties. This is another attempt to run around the state's Prop 13. VOTE NO on 171.

This would dedicate 1/2 cent of the current sales tax revenues for use by police, fire, sheriffs, criminal prosecution, and correction. We have always had problems with defining special taxes for special purposes. No matter what is said, the money is still squandered on salaries and other higher costs. The counties say they will have to cut local law officers: bullshit. Let's do more honest budgeting and we will still have sufficient tax revenue to cover all costs. There is still a large pool of federal tax dollars that comes to these agencies that no one want to talk about. VOTE NO on special taxes. VOTE NO on 172.

What a farce: this would allow first-time low income folks to put down five percent, instead of 20 percent, to purchase a new home. The mortgage payments would be guaranteed by the state. A \$1,000 monthly mortgage would then be \$1,500 a month or better. If the state would like to give homes away and let other taxpayers pay for them, it should say so. We don't believe that this will kickstart California's economy and we don't buy "all those new jobs" crap, either. Another hefty bond issue that this state's taxpayers cannot afford—VOTE NO on 173.

No, No, No, No, No, No, No, No, No, No, No.
(See main editorial, page 8.)

Fresh Prince, Stale Phobia

by Al Kielwasser

A feature story in the Fall '93 issue of *Tell*, a new teen magazine, profiles actor/rapper Will Smith (best known for his title role in the NBC sitcom *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*). Feature writer Karen Catchpole describes Smith's "commitment to growing as an actor," explaining that he just hired his first acting coach and "is taking his best shot at becoming a bone fide movie star" by playing the lead in the upcoming film version of *Six Degrees of Separation*.

However, the "actor" shows few signs of growth when it comes to homophobia. His character in *Six Degrees of Separation* is gay. When he accepted the role, Smith knew that the script called for an on-screen kiss with another man. However, when the time came to shoot the scene, Smith refused.

"I just couldn't do it," Smith said. "I mean, I'm an actor. I can sit there with a greasy smile on my face and act like I kissed a man. But it's different when you actually, physically, kiss a man. It wouldn't have been acting. It would have been real. I have kissed girls on-screen. I could work that out. The difference is how people perceive it. If I'd kissed a guy and then went home, they'd be like, 'Yo, man. Why'd you do that?' And I'd be like, 'You know, man. I'm an actor. I was acting.' And they'd be like 'Yo, man. You kissed a dude. Something's wrong with you, man.' I just didn't want to hear that."

Let's just ignore (for now) why Smith is so worried that if he "actually, physically, kissed a man," he would not have been acting but that "it would have been real." Perhaps he suffers from the common heterosexual anxiety that straight men can become gay men just by touching or kissing another guy in "that way." Perhaps not.

In any case, Smith's attitude demonstrates a remarkable lack of sensitivity. For Smith, apparently, acting is not a means for expanding awareness but reinforcing ignorance. Write to Will Smith, c/o NBC TV, 3000 West Alameda Ave., Burbank, CA 91505.

Other Mothers

The CBS Schoolbreak Special, broadcast on the afternoon of October 15, depicted the travails of a high school freshman who weathers homophobic ostracism when his peers discover that he has two lesbian mothers. *Other Mothers*, directed by Lee Shallat and produced by Joseph Stern, depicts a happy home life for teenager Will Jergenson (William Russ), his biological mother Linda (Joanna Cassidy) and his "other mother" Paula (Meredith Baxter).

In a "Read More About It" postscript to the program, actress Meredith Baxter says: "To learn more about the changing roles in our parenting society, the Library of Congress recommends these books: *Diversity in American Families*, by Maxine Baca Zinn and D. Stanley Eitzen, and *Rethinking the Family*, edited by Barrie Thorne and

Marilyn Yalom.

Advertisers on this affirming program were: Multigrain Cheerios (General Mills), Jell-O, Actifed Sinus medicine, Cortisone-10, Campbell's soup, Sears, Airwick, Purina Cat Chow, Yuban Coffee, Aquafresh toothpaste, Efidac 24, Fleishmann's Egg Beaters, Lever 2000 soap, Mrs. Dash spices, JC Penny, 1-800-DENTIST (a registered service mark of Applied Anagramics, Inc.), Post Raisin Bran, Huggies diapers, M&M's, V-8 juice, Prego spaghetti sauce, Preparation H, Hershey's Hugs, and Roloids. Comments should be sent to Jeff Sagansky, President, CBS Entertainment, 7800 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90213.

To Boldly Go Where No Queer Has Gone Before

Shortly before Gene Roddenberry's death, he met with members of The USS Lambda, a lesbian and gay *Star Trek* fan club in Los Angeles. At this meeting, Roddenberry stated that, since there was virtually no racism in his 24th century TV world, he doubted that there would be any homophobia either. He agreed to include openly (and unmistakably) gay and lesbian main characters on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* as well as other *Trek* spin-offs. After Roddenberry's death, his successors promised to follow his wishes and develop lesbian, gay and bisexual characters.

Star Trek: The Next Generation is now in its final season and we have yet to see any openly queer figures on the show. *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* has begun its second season; though there are representatives of widely diverse cultures—from shape shifters to Ferengi—there seems to be no room for lesbian or gay characters on the Bajoran space station. Isn't it about time that *Star Trek* really went where no one has gone before? Write Rick Berman and Michael Piller, Executive Producers, *Star Trek TNG & DS9*, Paramount Domestic Television, 5555 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038.

Bay Area Censored

For the last five years, Media Alliance's "Bay Area Censored" project has called attention to important local news stories that the mainstream media underreported or ignored. Important stories about our community are routinely censored. The major news dailies and evening newscasts continue to pay little attention to everything from hate crimes to research on homophobia.

If you have read a story in any publication this year that you believe should have received more local coverage, let Bay Area Censored know about it. Along with your own name and address, send in the title of the story, where it appeared, and the date of publication. "Any topic is fair game," according to the folks at Bay Area Censored, "as long as its primary significance is to the Bay Area." The deadline is November 19 and submissions should be sent to Media Alliance/Bay Area Censored, Fort Mason Bldg. D, San Francisco, CA 94123, tel. 415-441-2557. ▼

Confront and cure homophobia! To notify the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation of any defamatory media coverage, or to request GLAAD membership information, write to GLAAD/SFBA, 514 Castro Street, Suite B, San Francisco, CA 94114. Call our office at 415-861-4588; fax, 415-861-4893; South Bay, 408-235-0229; East Bay, 510-273-9146. ▼

Lutherans Come Around On Gays and Masturbation

by Karen Ocamb

Heterosexual marriages are not the only legitimate unions recognized in the Bible, according to a report issued by a task force studying human sexuality for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

"It is the binding commitment, not the license or ceremony, that lies at the heart of biblical understandings of marriage," says the statement reported by the Associated Press October 23. "In those circumstances where a legal marriage is not feasible, communities of faith need to consider other ways of publicly affirming and communally supporting a loving binding commitment between two people."

The 21-page report, entitled "The Church and Human Sexuality: A Lutheran Perspective," will be sent to the church's 19,000 pastors and other leaders of the ELCA's 5.2 million-member denomination. The report, which emphasizes the "created goodness of sexuality" and took

four years to complete, is only a first draft. A second draft, to include responses to this report, will be presented at a church-wide assembly in 1995.

Although Martin Luther, founder of the Lutheran Church, was considered a revolutionary in his time, this report by one of America's largest mainline churches has already sparked controversy.

Appropriate masturbation

In addition to recognizing non-traditional unions, the task force also considers masturbation healthy. "Masturbation, a means of self-pleasuring, is generally appropriate and healthy," the report says. The task force also calls sex education a "moral imperative," especially the teaching of teenagers about condoms to prevent disease, though teens are encouraged to abstain from sexual intercourse until they enter "a permanent commitment."

The report does attack adultery, promiscuity, sexual abuse, prostitution, pornography, and the exploitation of

sexuality in advertising and entertainment. "This is not anything goes. There are some things we stand against," the Reverend Karen Bloomquist told the Associated Press.

But what the task force stands firmly for is challenging anti-gay attitudes: homosexuals "have heard much condemnation but little life-giving Gospel addressed to us as gay and lesbian Christians," the report says. Rather than believing the Bible's literal condemnation of homosexuals in Leviticus and Romans, the report suggests a more "responsible biblical interpretation" that emphasizes the command to "love thy neighbor as yourself."

The report cites the 13th chapter of the letter from the apostle Paul to Romans: "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law."

Such love, the report says, "is pivotal for evaluating homosexual activity.... Gay and lesbian persons are indeed among the neighbors we are called by Christ to love." ▼



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Vision and Perspective of Beauty: Orchidman Al Hill

by Ron Lazar

Al Hill is a Northern California gay man, a lighting designer, the Vice President of the San Francisco Orchid Society — and much, much more. A native Chicagoan whose family moved to Van Nuys when he was one, Hill says he doesn't exactly know where his interest in orchids came from. "Like a lot of people —" he told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "they probably

don't know why they think an orchid is interesting. ... I have always been fascinated by nature, everything in the physical world." Unlike most people, however, Hill has taken his interest seriously enough to get an orchid named after himself — and another after his mother.

It probably helps that Hill's relatives were modest mini-farmers nearby as he was growing up. "My grandparents had staked out a

place and had a little semi-ranch type place where they raised poultry and had fruit trees," he said. "They traded fruits, vegetables, and eggs with their neighbors, like people did in those days."

"There were always these mysteries, like the opossums that would come at night and eat the chickens, and the man who would, at night, mow the half acre of grain; that was a mystery because it would be there one day, and gone the



Orchidman extraordinaire Al Hill, who has had an orchid named after him, believes "we are losing touch with nature by not having enough contact with it in our urban environment."

(Photo: Ron Lazar)

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next. I was always fascinated with that.

"My father made wooden toys and cabinets. I learned some skills from him, but I didn't learn very much from him, frankly."

Botany by degrees — and homosexuality, too

Hill worked at UC Berkeley as a botanist in the Botanical Garden for three years starting in 1969, and earned two degrees in botany from UCLA. He has studied plant taxonomy, bio-systematics, the classification and naming of plants, and an understanding of their evolutionary relationships. And along the way, he has learned something about himself and the ways his own relationships have evolved.

Hill said he became aware he was gay in his early thirties. "I had relationships with women before that," he said, but "it was always a mystery to me as to why I wasn't very interested in women. ... I'm not culturally very horny; although I find much of it fascinating, it is not the main thing that I'm interested in. My balance is always more towards nature rather than culture."

"I was living in a house with a lot of people," he said of his coming out process. "I was having trouble, extreme trouble, possibly caused by diabetes, and I was overweight, so I freaked out, and I really dieted and lost weight, which changed my self-image a lot. I decided to take a radical change in direction. I actually came out as a result of the use of LSD, through which I really discovered the gay side of myself. It was a great wonderful discovery, which I certainly don't regret in any way, shape, or form."

"I guess as I discovered that I was attracted to men, I discovered myself as an individual. I realized that I had been attracted to men since I was very young but I had never allowed it to come out. When I told my mother about this on the phone, she immediately called my sister. By the time I got to my sister I discovered that my mother said that if my father ever found out about it, it would kill him. So that was not a good beginning, although, nothing ever really came of any of those predictions. It was some time, years later, when we discussed the sub-

ject frankly.

It was just a few years after [the] Stonewall [Riots] and the gay movement was definitely moving very rapidly in those days. I started going to the local rap group — a discussion group, not hip hop singers — within weeks of discovering my gayness. I met a man at the very first group that I liked."

Letting his lights shine

Hill has become almost as renowned in the Bay Area for the laser lighting designs he creates as for his plants. "I had always been interested in *Fantasia*," he said of his enthusiasm for lighting, "and the relationship between music and light. I had an interest in creating a visual stimulus

"I'm not culturally very horny; although I find much of it fascinating, it is not the main thing I'm interested in."

that was like music. It was also commercially quite popular."

He says he doesn't see too much difference between his botanical and lighting work. Of his lighting, he said, "It doesn't mean anything, it is just a gorgeous visual experience. And that's the way I relate to plants, as well. There is something about them that is just very beautiful to me."

"Drums, the rock and dance club in Guerneville, was my first ongoing laser installation. It was a quite a going club in the summertime, and that installation looked really nice. I guess I enjoy bringing pleasure to people in some way, because I find in visual things so much pleasure, and being able to do something like that was really a great treat."

Still, it is orchids that most people think of when they

(Continued on next page)

Ken Doll Dolls Up

Beloved Toy Gets an Earring (But Still No Dick)

by Jim Emerson

Rumors about Ken Mattel's sexual orientation are circulating and his very corporate parents are happy knowing that some gays find their buffed boy toy from El Segundo so endearing.

An updated version of the venerable Ken doll is becoming trendy among some gays. Retailers nationwide report that gays are buying Barbie's longtime companion to have as their own.

"We're happy with the way Magic Earring Ken has been selling, for whatever the reason," says Gary Jockers, general manager of the FAO Schwartz toy store in San Francisco.

"Any controversy is good for sales, Jocker says. 'I've heard that a lot of gay men are buying Earring Ken across the country, especially in Chicago and New York.'"

Apparently gays in San Francisco aren't as infatuated with Ken as the denizens of New York and Chicago, where some stores reportedly have trouble keeping up with demand, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. We're only seeing a few gay men buying it in our store," Jockers says.

It seems Ken has tongues flapping since he's started sporting a matching lavender mesh shirt and vest, plus an earring and neck chain to

complement his two-tone hair coloring. The rumor that Ken's relationship with that doll Barbie is apparently one of toyland convenience surprises few men who have sneaked a peek at his crotch over the years.

Carefully avoiding the word "gay," Mattel spokeswoman Lisa McKendall says, "if there are 'other people' who enjoy our product, of course we're pleased."

McKendall doesn't explain why Ken's wardrobe was changed from milquetoast to campy. "We design Barbie and Ken to be wholesome products for little girls," she said from corporate headquarters in El Segundo.

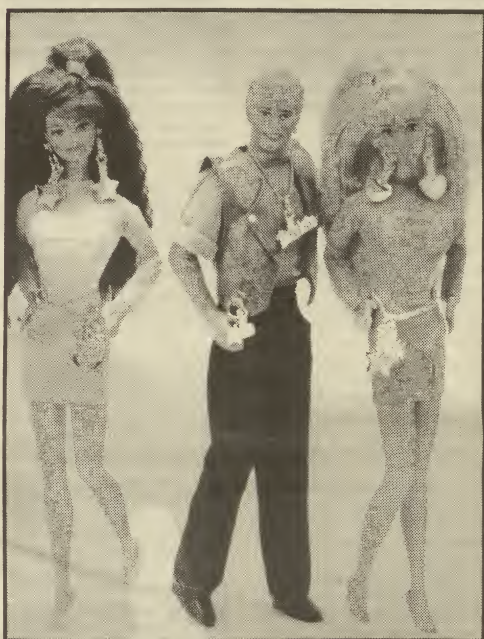
Mattel officially denies fiddling with Ken's image is merely a publicity stunt. "We just thought it would be cool if Ken started wearing an earring and chain," McKendall told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The author of *Barbie: Thirty Years of America's Doll*, Cynthia Robbins, says Ken is definitely gay. Robbins outed Ken recently in the *Examiner* where she's a staff writer, but the real scoop belongs to *The Advocate* magazine, which ran a blurb on Ken's suspicious new look back in February.

Not surprisingly, Mattel and others who stand to gain financially from rumors about Ken's sexual orientation don't seem a bit perturbed: there's money to be made by such idle gossip.

This fascination with Ken comes with a price. While Magic Earring Barbie normally sells for about \$11, some stores, like FAO Schwartz are marking up the Ken version closer to \$20 to take advantage of the notoriety.

It's hard to gauge the doll's current popularity in San Francisco. Earring Magic Ken was spotted recently at the Folsom Street Fair, of all places. Although there have been no reports of him being seen at Cafe Flore yet. ▼



Magic Earring Ken, whose accessories include a rather large neck chain and faux leather vest, is flanked by two beards in this photo.

Orchidman

(Continued from previous page)

think of Al Hill, and for good reason. "I have bred some, and named one after my mother, Dortha Olivia, fortunately, just before she died," he told the *B.A.R.* "The name of that orchid is *Paphiopedilum Dortha Olivia*. There is an orchid named after me, *Paphiopedilum Al Hill*. It is a hybrid that I did

not develop, but it is of the type that can be a houseplant and everybody can enjoy it, which is really one of my goals in hybridizing — developing orchids that are easy for beginners to have in their home — because I believe we are losing touch with nature by not having enough contact with it in our urban environments."

Hill estimates the number of large plants in his immediate environment at home to be "several hundred," plus "an innumerable number of seedlings of different hybrids of one sort or another." It seems like a lot until Hill points out that "there are somewhere between 20,000 and 30,000-plus species of orchids."

"I'm interested in nature as a really grand expression. I see humans as a part of that picture," he said, adding, "I guess I'm not very interested in money. Having money is really a very poor guarantee against running into troubles in life. I believe we can only really do it through our relationships, and our support systems that we build."

"At this time we are at a

low ebb, regarding people working together as opposed to what it was back in the early 1970s. I think we still need to keep working in that direction and learn the skills necessary to make it work better than it has worked in the past. If you create something positive, people will eventually migrate towards it."

"The role of gay men in society," he concluded thoughtfully, "is to bring their unique perspective to the world: their vision, their perspective of beauty." ▼

"If you create something positive, people will eventually migrate towards it."

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Uniform Standards

by Michael C. Botkin

The Boy Scouts of America, who got much negative press locally last year for persecuting gay scouts and leaders, had another PR disaster last week when it was revealed that they've dismissed over 1,800 scoutmasters for child molestation in the past two decades. BSA spin doctors did their feeble best to explain away the statistic, which is all the more embarrassing as it comes from their own records, recently subpoenaed for a lawsuit. Consider that there are millions of scouts overall, they pointed out, and that two decades is an awfully long time!

Commentary

Consider, too, that many (if not most) molesting scoutmasters are never caught at all and that many who were perhaps avoided prosecution and/or dismissal. Even more damning is evidence that several defrocked troop leaders simply moved to another

state and took over a new chapter, a maneuver smoothed by the BSA policy of avoiding any sort of screening procedure that would turn up a criminal record.

Quibbling aside, the BSA now ranks officially as the number-one child-molesting organization in America, at last displacing the Catholic Church, the traditional leader. Worldwide the Vatican probably outranks the scouts, since they provide pederasts with parishes all over the world instead of just in one country. And no single scoutmaster can probably hope to challenge the record of Father Porter, an ex-priest who just pled guilty to nearly 50 separate counts of sexual abuse and is charged with hundreds more.

This could be because the wayward troop leaders had to relocate on their own and perhaps even change their names, while accused priests could always count on being quietly transferred across the county, the state, the archdiocese, or the country if need be (as was done for Father Porter) by the Church itself. And keep in mind that scout



leaders only had the opportunity to molest boys, whereas priests are given access to children of both genders. This, perhaps, is why scoutmasters have only to deny being gay, while priests have to promise to swear off sex altogether.

Homo Haberdashery

It all makes me wish that I'd gotten more involved in scouting when I was a kid. But at the time I had no idea

that scouts were having so much fun. I was a cub scout for a while, but I never made it past the rank of Weblo (pronounced, I kid you not, "We Blow" — perhaps a veiled reference to what we'd do if paired up with a hot Boy Scout). Alas, I was put off by their single-minded drive toward achievement of rank via acquiring apparently endless "merit" badges. A sloppy dresser, I was largely immune to the lure of the scouts' paramilitary uniforms.

These uniforms, decorated with those arcane but impressive badges, have always constituted one of the BSA's major allures. Getting a cut of the sales on officially sanctioned outfits is how the honchos who run the scouts — a clique of self-appointed good ol' boys down in Irving, Texas — make most of their money.

Obviously these boring bubbas never figured out such a scam for themselves. It was the founder of the scouts, Lord Baden-Powell, who bequeathed the organization its love of militaristic haberdashery when he created the group at the turn of the century. One of the creators of South Africa's apartheid system, a noted militarist and authoritarian (some would say "fascist"), Baden-Powell is currently acknowledged by all but the most naive historians to have been an avid and active — if not hyperactive — pederast. Nothing turned him on like a boy in uniform, and putting boys in uniforms, he discovered, made them even more vulnerable to orders and suggestions that might at first glance appear to violate the famous scout oath to always be "morally straight."

But Catholic priests don't appear to have been hindered overmuch by their own oaths of chastity either, so perhaps the underlying lesson taught by both organizations is the benefits of moral hypocrisy. The main difference between these two leading pederastic groups seems to be that the Catholics appeal more to youth who prefer effeminate clothes (those altar-boy outfits and the nelly cassocks worn by priests), while the scouts tend to get those who favor butch drag.

Good Goddess!

Meanwhile the Marines, who like the Catholics encourage chastity and like the Boy Scouts promote the worship of uniforms and like both completely ban homosexuality, have declined to press their investigation of a gay Marine porn ring recently

uncovered in San Diego. As part of their accelerated witch hunt of queers, a backlash inspired and encouraged by Clinton's bumbling efforts to lift the military's gay ban, they gleefully pursued the case at first when it looked like it involved only two or three Marines. It would be educational, they felt, to drum them out of the corps with maximum pomp and publicity.


But when preliminary reports suggested they would find two or three hundred easily proved cases, and reveal a major and long-established industry of homosexual porn featuring bona-fide USMC personnel, they quickly dropped the project. Now, for the first time, they're beginning to understand the principles at the bottom of "don't ask, don't tell."

In contrast to the moralism, exclusivity, and hypocrisy manifested by the BSA, Vatican, and Marines, the Girl Scouts of America (who are organizationally completely independent of the BSA) just announced a revision to their own oath. Young women will no longer have to promise to serve "God" but may substitute any "words they deem more appropriate," such as "Allah" or "Goddess."

The change is intended to make the group more inclusive, for example to Asian and American-Indian girls and others from outside the Judeo-Christian tradition. The Boy Scouts, who offer no merit badges for honesty or inclusivity, are miffed by this liberalization and make it clear they have no intention to follow suit. Present a smug and morally superior front, they've discovered, and you can get away with just about anything behind the scenes.

Correction

Readers familiar with the intricacies of our welfare system will doubtless have noticed that in last week's column, "Managed Scare," I repeatedly referred to "Medicaid" (the "safety net" for the indigent) when I actually meant to say "Medicare" (the retirement system funded by Social Security). A social worker friend (who immediately noticed the error) suggests this simple mnemonic to help remember the difference: "Medicare is mostly for old people, who everyone naturally CAREs about, and in fact it's pretty good. Medicaid is AID to poor people, which is always given grudgingly and tends to be pretty bad."



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All American Midwest Boy Fun: Transvestism

United Press International

CHATHAM, ILLINOIS — Chad Dixon went parading around before his high school classmates in a cowgirl outfit — and later in an off-the-shoulder white dress — all with his mother's help and approval.

"I can tell he's having a good time," she said.

Not only did he have a good time, Chad was also the winner of the first-ever "Mr. Homecoming" contest at Glenwood High School, in this central Illinois town.

Chad was one of ten seniors competing in the contest in categories ranging from "Mr. Congeniality" to "Best Legs," in addition to the top spot of "Mr. Homecoming."

The contest, which took a little over an hour the night of October 19 to complete, saw students sashaying about in dresses, blowing kisses, wearing dangling earrings and pearls, high heels, wigs, and makeup.

Chad Dixon was far from

the only contestant to have help in achieving his feminine look. Mothers and girlfriends could be seen all over the backstage area of the high school's gymnasium, applying eyelashes or a tad more blush to their boys.

"We're seniors. We've got to do it all."

— High School Senior Chad Dixon

Jeremy Maddox, another contestant, said he could not resist the opportunity to participate in the contest, which school student council officials say they hope becomes an annual event.

"We're seniors. We've got to do it all," Maddox said.

The contest was judged by village President Linda Koester, state Representative Michael Curran, and Sangamon County Sheriff's police Deputy Chico Belle, all of whom said they enjoyed watching the contest.

"This was fun. What a riot," Koester said. "It was really hard to pick the best one. I think competing in this showed a lot of self-confidence. I appreciate the school doing this." ▼

Anti-Gay Cracker Barrel Chain Sued

United Press International

NEW YORK — A federal judge has ruled in support of a lawsuit trying to challenge anti-gay hiring practices by Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores.

Mayor David Dinkins applauded the ruling, by U.S. District Court Judge Kimba Wood in Manhattan, that shareholders have a right to question employment practices of companies in which they've invested.

"Her decision provides us with an essential weapon in our battle against employment discrimination in both public and private sectors,"

Dinkins said.

The ruling contradicted the position taken by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The company based in Lebanon, Tennessee, had declared it would not "continue to employ individuals whose sexual preferences fail to demonstrate normal heterosexual values."

Cracker Barrel reportedly fired at least nine gay employees on that basis.

The New York City Employees Retirement Systems moved to challenge the policy and sued when Cracker Barrel omitted the proposal in a proxy package. ▼

Republicans (Some) 'Dis' Buchanan, Robertson

United Press International

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA — Republicans for Choice said Wednesday, October 20, it would survey abortion rights GOP members to determine their top choices among the major contenders for the Republican presidential nomination in 1996.

"Republican officials are asking RFC who we would like to see run for president in 1996," said Ann Stone, chairman of Republicans for Choice. "This poll will give us a sense of who rank and file

pro-choice Republicans would like to see as our standard-bearer."

The survey is intended to coalesce support around one or two candidates, she said.

"If we pro-choice Republicans are all over the place, then our vote will be splintered," said Stone. "Someone like Pat Buchanan, or Pat Robertson himself could walk in with a united anti-choice vote in the Republican primaries and win."

The survey will be conducted through November. ▼

Classifieds

LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 955751

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of CAMILLE LEE KRENTSA, a minor (by LEA M. RODRIGUEZ, parent), for change of name, the application of CAMILLE LEE KRENTSA for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that CAMILLE LEE KRENTSA (by LEA M. RODRIGUEZ, parent) has filed an application proposing that HER name be changed to CAMILLE LEE RODRIGUEZ. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 14th day of December 1993 at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 21st day of October, 1993.

October 28 November 4, 11, 18, 1993. L-955751

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 955715

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of KENNETH WILLIAM STOLLE for change of name, the application of KENNETH WILLIAM STOLLE for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that KENNETH WILLIAM STOLLE has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to PHOENIX POZHAR AGUILA. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 13th day of December 1993 at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 19th day of October, 1993.

October 28, November 4, 11, 18, 1993. L-955715

PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF MINOR AND NEW BIRTH CERTIFICATE FILE NO. 954116

In the matter of the Application of RUBY DAVID CURLEY by her parent JANEEN ENID DAVIS petitioner, for change of name and a birth certificate. Petitioner JANEEN ENID DAVIS, on behalf of applicant RUBY DAVID CURLEY, alleges: Petitioner is over 18 years of age; applicant is a minor under 18 years of age; this petition is filed on behalf of applicant by JANEEN ENID DAVIS is applicant's mother; applicant was born at San Francisco, California; applicant resides at 3133 Irving Street, San Francisco, CA 94122-1427.

WHEREFORE, petitioner prays as follows: For an order to show cause at a specified time and place why this petition for change of name should not be granted; that, on the hearing, the court make an order changing applicant's name from RUBY DAVID CURLEY to RUBY PEARL SPEROS; that, on the hearing, the court make an order changing the name of the father to Dimitri James Speros; that she be granted a waiver of the requirement for publication of the "Order to Show Cause" required by CCP 1277, as all concerned individuals will receive notice by mail; that all other proper orders be granted.

October 14, 21, 28 November 4, 1993. L-954116

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LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 955184

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of BARRY KANE LEIGHTON for change of name. The application of BARRY KANE LEIGHTON for change of name, having been filed in Court, and appearing from said application that BARRY KANE LEIGHTON has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to MARWICK KANE. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 30th day of November 1993 at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 5th day of October, 1993.

October 14, 21, 28 November 4, 1993. L-955184

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 179208

The following person is doing business as SFQ, 88 Howard St., #2112, San Francisco, CA 94105. D. L. PERKINS, 88 Howard St., #2112, San Francisco, CA 94105. STEVE CARAMIA, 35 Stillman, #108, San Francisco, CA 94107. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date September 24, 1993. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed DALE PERKINS. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 24, 1993.

October 7, 14, 21, 28, 1993. L-179208

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 955170

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of MATTHEW JAMES PERRY for change of name. The application of MATTHEW JAMES PERRY for change of name, having been filed in Court, and appearing from said application that MATTHEW JAMES PERRY has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to DALE PERKINS. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 17th day of November 1993 at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 27th day of September, 1993.

October 7, 14, 21, 28, 1993. L-955170

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 955299

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of RICHARD LYLE NORTON for change of name. The application of RICHARD LYLE NORTON for change of name, having been filed in Court, and appearing from said application that RICHARD LYLE NORTON has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to JOSEPH PATRICK EASTON. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 24th day of November 1993 at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 4th day of October, 1993.

October 14, 21, 28 November 4, 1993. L-955299

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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 955298

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of CHARLES FRANKLIN MEARS II for change of name. The application of CHARLES FRANKLIN MEARS II for change of name, having been filed in Court, and appearing from said application that CHARLES FRANKLIN MEARS II has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to CHARLES FRANKLIN EASTON. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 24th day of November 1993 at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 4th day of October, 1993.

October 14, 21, 28 November 4, 1993. L-955298

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 179414

The following person is doing business as ANT HILL PRODUCTIONS, 76 Liberty St., San Francisco, CA 94110. PAMELA RORKE LEVY, 3757 Clay St., San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date January 1, 1993. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed PAMELA RORKE LEVY. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 30, 1993.

October 21, 28 November 4, 11, 1993. L-179414

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 179365

The following person is doing business as J.D. & ASSOCIATES, 234 Gates St., San Francisco, CA 94110. JON D. DILLINGHAM, JR., 234 Gates St., San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date October 1, 1993. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed JON D. DILLINGHAM. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 29, 1993.

October 28, November 4, 11, 18, 1993. L-179365

JOBS OFFERED

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By: Jim Kavanaugh

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VOL. XXIII NO. 43 OCTOBER 28, 1993

Lesbian Vampire Lovers at the Castro Deconstructing the Dyke Undead

by Erin Blackwell

Andrea Weiss, a nice Jewish girl from Bristol, Pennsylvania, has become, through no fault of her own, something of an authority on lesbian vampires. Next Friday (Nov 5), for one night only, the writer and filmmaker will demonstrate her intimate knowledge of these sapphic fiends with the aid of film clips from a variety of films, including such arcane spine-

pire Lovers, represents a chapter from Weiss's book, *Vampires and Violets: Lesbians in Film*, a critical guide to the presence/absence of celluloid lesbians. The book was published in Great Britain last year. As a fitting tribute to the book's recent U.S. publication, Weiss will tour the country, lecturing principally from the book's less ghoulish chapters. Bay Area vampiophiles will be pleased to note they will receive an exclusive all-fangs-bared treat-

"I'm starting the tour in San Francisco with the Vampire lecture, which seems totally fitting to me," said Weiss in a recent interview, "because that's where it all started." The book, that is, not vampirism. It was a phone call from Frameline in 1987 that motivated Weiss to complete the first chapter of *Vampires and Violets*. Michael Lumpkin, then with Frameline, picked vampires from Weiss's wish-list of possible chapters as the topic for her first clip-and-quip night at the Castro.

"It went over very well," recalled Weiss. "Even though it was kind of half-baked, my thinking about it has developed tremendously since that time, but that first event really helped me to develop it." No one present who enjoyed Weiss's first unearthing will



Lesbian vampire authority and nice Jewish girl, filmmaker Andrea Weiss loves the lesbian vampire film genre "because they're so outrageous ... they're easier than more negative images to play with."

(Photo: Ekko von Schwichow)

"The lesbian vampire image is constructed as a kind of sleazy and very hateful image."

tinglers as *Dracula's Daughter* (1936), *The Vampire Lovers* (1970), *Daughters of Darkness* (1970) and *The Hunger* (1983).

The evening's clip-and-commentary session at the Castro, called Lesbian Vam-

pire Lovers, represents a chapter from Weiss's book, *Vampires and Violets: Lesbians in Film*, a critical guide to the presence/absence of celluloid lesbians. The book was published in Great Britain last year. As a fitting tribute to the book's recent U.S. publication, Weiss will tour the country, lecturing principally from the book's less ghoulish chapters. Bay Area vampiophiles will be pleased to note they will receive an exclusive all-fangs-bared treat-

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"It went over very well," recalled Weiss. "Even though it was kind of half-baked, my thinking about it has developed tremendously since that time, but that first event really helped me to develop it." No one present who enjoyed Weiss's first unearthing will

her. "I was never interested in vampire films," she confessed. "I was interested in lesbian films. And when you look at lesbian films, inevitably you're going to stumble on vampire films, because that's the dominant form that lesbianism has taken in cinema — before the onset of current independent films made by lesbian filmmakers," artists like Barbara Hammer, Ulrika Ottinger and Chantal Ackerman.

When it was suggested that digging up the dyke undead was promoting a sleazy self-image at odds with wholesome American lesbian chic, Weiss kicked into semiotics mode: "An image means more than its surface, or first reading. There are many ways you can read an image. The overwhelming way in which the lesbian vampire image is constructed is all directed toward a kind of, as you say, sleazy and very hateful image." Despite their carefully constructed negative vibe, vampires, like anybody else in our deconstructed world, are nonetheless in the eye of the beholder: "The lesbian vampire films also have this element of fun. And because they're so outrageous — they're not really that subtle — they're easier than more negative images to play with."

If the preceding sounds dangerously close to camp sensibility — it is. "One of my agendas," confirms Weiss about the writing of *Vampires and Violets*, "was to explore or try to understand what is lesbian camp. Does camp exist for lesbians? And what does it look like and how does it work? These lesbian vampire films lend themselves to all kinds of camp readings. In that sense the images can be somewhat redeemed."

As a cultural historian, "as opposed to a military historian or a political historian," Weiss sees the lesbian vampire's redemption in cultural rather than political terms. "You can dismantle some of that negativity with humor, sort of disarming it. When lesbian audiences see those vampires, they can be somewhat redeemed."

(Continued on page 46)

Chen Kaige and 'Farewell My Concubine' Banned in Beijing

by Daniel Mangin

"We pretend not to see the reality of homosexuality in China, but sooner or later we must face the fact." So says 41-year-old Chinese director Chen Kaige, whose *Farewell My Concubine*, a historical melodrama about a Peking Opera star who carries a life-long torch for one of his fellow actors, shared the prestigious Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival this year.

Chen's picture became the toast of European film circles, but that didn't save it from being banned in Beijing the day after a splashy premiere for violating political and sexual taboos. A desire to keep up the pretext that homosexuality doesn't occur in China may have been behind the censorship directed at the gay content.

Or maybe not. Chen's political views — particularly

about China's tumultuous Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and '70s — probably ruffled the bureaucrats as much as the passions of his lead character, Dieyi, who is played by Hong Kong superstar Leslie Cheung.

Farewell was rescued, Chen heard after the fact, by Chinese head of state, Deng Xiaoping — who as a victim of the Cultural Revolution himself may not have found the film's critique of that period such a threat to national security. But *Farewell* was withdrawn again, Chen says, by lower-level authorities, who insisted on a switch near the end that (ostensibly) softened the gay overtones.

A Bad Joke?

"Was it because they wanted to deny the closeness between the men?" the director asks rhetorically over tea at the Prescott hotel recently. "Maybe yes, maybe no. I really think it's just a bad joke. They wanted to prove they



Leslie Cheung in *Farewell My Concubine*. Director Chen Kaige, right.

could make a change, so they made one. I don't think it changes the meaning one bit ... but I agree that you have to

ask: Why did they chose this part?"

This is the scenario that — for whatever reasons — the

bureaucrats decided to revise:

Dieyi's most famous role is in an opera — also titled "Farewell My Concubine" — about a king who is about to lose an important battle. The king beseeches his concubine,

A desire to reinforce the pretext that homosexuality doesn't occur in China may have been behind the temporary ban.

played by Dieyi, to flee for her safety, but she sticks it out with him, finally killing herself as the enemy closes in.

Dieyi becomes so involved in his stage identity that he carries over his devotion to

(Continued on page 44)

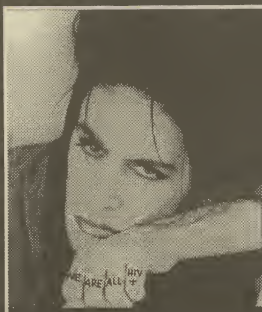
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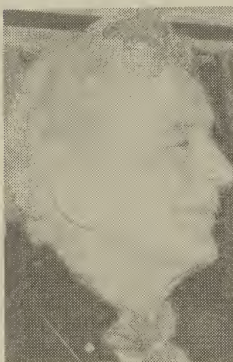
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Paul Rudnick: selective
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Liza 90210?

by Orland Outland

The Joe Boxer underwear company threw a champagne reception at the Castro Theatre last Wednesday, a benefit for Frameline to kick off the week-long series of short films called, appropriately, *Boys' Shorts*. Alas, the program's run will have ended by the time you read this, but if you ever get a chance to see writer/director Mark Christopher's short flick, *The Dead Boys' Club*, see it. It's a perfect little piece of work — funny, charming, and, for an indie short, very slick. Looking at the cast list on the press release before the film, I asked Christopher how on earth he got Erik Estrada to perform in his movie. Unfortunately for the gossip columnist (and fortunately for the movie), *Dead Boys'* Estrada is a young man who just happens to spell his name the same way as the '70s TV beef starlet.

Christopher told me that he's currently working with Paul Schrader (*American Gigolo*) on a script about the zenith of Studio 54. Which got me thinking, now whom would you cast in that? Yours Truly has a few suggestions: How about Quentin Crisp as Halston, and wouldn't Jaye Davidson make a perfect Bianca Jagger? But whom to cast as the irritating Liza Minnelli? Personally, I could easily see Shannen Doherty in that little pixie haircut.

The November *Movieline* features an interview with Antonio Banderas, who's playing Tom Hanks' boyfriend in *Philadelphia* and Armand in *Interview With the Vampire*. Calling himself "a big fan of Anne Rice," he says he looks forward to playing Armand, de-

scribed by *Movieline* as "a lover of the vampire Lestat" (played by you-know-who). Of course, a "big fan" would know that in the book, Armand was actually a lover of Louis (Brad Pitt). When asked if the lovers in *Philadelphia* "deep kiss and romp in bed the way off-screen lovers do," Banderas replies that he and Hanks do have one kiss: "we kiss like brothers." Sounds like real longtime companions, actually.

And Paul Rudnick sounds off to *Movieline* about homophobia in Hollywood, which he says "comes from a certain amount of self-loathing. It goes back to when these Eastern European Jews founded the film industry, yet found it necessary to present perfect, wholesome, WASPy versions of American life. Likewise, with gay film executives, there is often this fear that the world hates them ... as a result, they behave more homophobically than straight people." (Hold your water; Rudnick is Jewish as well as gay.) Hollywood is often accused of having no memory of its past, but it seems that memory loss is sometimes selective: Rudnick notes that "*Making Love*, a bad 10-year-old gay film, made no money, so it is held as proof that gay subject matter doesn't work."

However, *Variety* notes that Rudnick's play *Jeffrey* may be made into a film by N.Y.-based Working Man Films. Seems the way for gay material to reach Hollywood's heart is through the stage door: other hit plays about to be made into movies include *Angels in America* (to be directed by Robert Altman, no stranger to three-hour-plus

epics) and *Twilight of the Gods*. Why, you may ask? Well, because they're what's called "proven commodities," having already made good money on stage.

Three cheers for Randy Shilts. Yes, Randy Shilts. When HBO included a picture of vindictive harpy Kimberly Bergalis in the schmaltzy montage at the end of *And the Band Played On*, Mr. S is rumored to have pitched a fit and demanded her removal. For those whose memories are shorter than a shoelace, it was the Thoroughly Modern Medea who appeared before a Congressional hearing and said, "I am not a homosexual; I am not a drug addict — I have done nothing to deserve this disease." HBO neither confirmed nor denied when asked about the rumor by *The Advocate*, but a spokesman said "the whole notion of the montage was to show the great loss we've suffered in the arts and gay communities. Given this, Bergalis might not have been appropriate."

Meanwhile, *Variety* says *Band* will air on NBC sometime during the current TV season. Producer Aaron Spelling said he was "grateful to NBC for this courageous move," which is laying it on thick, since the flick was originally at NBC, who dumped the project. The alleged "courage" refers to advertisers' tendencies to pull out of anything gay or AIDS-related, but since *Band* pulled a healthy 25 share on HBO (see above under "proven commodity") and will probably score even higher on free TV, the decision to air it now looks like pure and simple chickenshit greed.

She stuck in her thumb, and pulled out a ... turkey? The release of Gus Van Sant's *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues* has been abruptly canceled by Fine Line features. *Variety* notes that the film got a "lukewarm" reception at the Toronto Film Festival, and rumor is that the film as it stands is confusing, and has been pulled for a recut.

Released on video yesterday, Gregg Araki's *The Living End*, priced for rental (at \$89.95) and not sale. This is not just the best "gay" movie ever made; it's one of the best movies made in the last decade — period! You are remiss and your soul is incomplete until you have seen this film. So what are you waiting for? ▼



Antonio Banderas (left) and Tom Hanks play lovers in Jonathan Demme's *Philadelphia*, which is evidently still The City of Brotherly Love.

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SA	OCT 23	— 8:00	PERES*
M	OCT 25	— 8:00	MILLEN
TU	OCT 26	— 8:00	PERES*
W	OCT 27	— 8:00	PERES*
TH	OCT 28	— 8:00	PERES*
F	OCT 29	— 8:00	PERES*
SA	OCT 30	— 2:00	MILLEN
		8:00	PERES*
M	NOV 1	— 8:00	MILLEN
TU	NOV 2	— 8:00	PERES*
W	NOV 3	— 8:00	PERES*
TH	NOV 4	— 8:00	PERES*
F	NOV 5	— 8:00	PERES*
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TH	NOV 11	— 8:00	PERES*
F	NOV 12	— 8:00	PERES*
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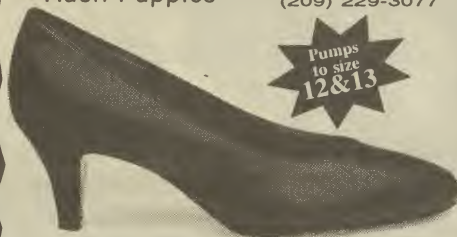
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Profile



Leslie Cheung and Gong Li.

Banned

(Continued from page 41)

his king into his life, creating no end of conflict for his co-star Xiaolou (Zhang Fengyi) and Xiaolou's wife Juxian (Gong Li, of *Raise the Red Lantern* and other films), a former prostitute.

The movie's concluding sequence mirrors that of the opera. According to Chen, the authorities required that instead of calling out "Dieyi" (the character's name in the "real life" of the film), Xiaolou cry out "Concubine" — a change that supposedly counteracts the nearly three hours of obsessing over Xiaolou in which Dieyi has engaged.

By this logic, Xiaolou is then responding with concern not over a man who is in love with him, but over a woman (the concubine) who is merely being played by a man.

Splitting Hairs

If that seems like splitting hairs, imagine how it feels to the filmmaker, who never conceived of *Farewell* as a gay love story in the first place — or of his lead character as gay, even though he's in love with a man.

"Dieyi believes that he is a woman," Chen maintains. "He has convinced himself that he can love this man because 'I am a woman.' But at the end of the film he realizes this is a mistake. The mistake is that his sexual identity is male, not female, which means that he's been dreaming of being a female for almost his whole life."

"He was forced into this role by the opera master when he was a child. At the end of the film comes the time to correct this mistake, to come back and be a man. But he doesn't. That is why I think this is the story of a man in love with another man, not a woman in love with another man. But it isn't really about homosexuality, it's about a confusion of identity."

Still, for gay folks in a country where the mere discussion of same-sex love remains a strong taboo, *Farewell's* high profile — it is said to be one of the most expensive pictures produced in China to date — and the participation of an icon like Leslie Cheung (think Johnny Depp or Luke Perry at the

height of their popularity) provide the solace of recognition at the very least.

Paying Respects

"I don't really know how a gay person in China would see this film," Chen says. "I think I pay my respects to gay people, but I realize that since I am not gay I'm not that good to represent gay people. To do that I must know a lot about their lives,

ing bitchy humor — as in the scene in which Dieyi taunts Xiaolou for marrying a whore — when the situation war-

The director declares himself "very curious about everything, including homosexuality. I don't believe it's an evil thing. It's not. This is modern society. We are not living in ancient times. There is nothing forbidden. Everything is possible in China, just like everything is possible in New York."

Chen's knowledge of sexuality stateside comes in part from a late-1980s stay in Manhattan, where he lectured at New York University's film department. He professes to be "somewhat" aware of gay community concerns about media depictions here, but asserts — convincingly — that this picture's tragic ending has to do with dramatic symmetry and the intensity of Dieyi's passion rather than a disdain for homosexuality. One could easily make the case that it is the Chinese government's alteration of the film's ending, as opposed to Chen's original one (which will be seen by American audiences), that betrays a wish to deny the possibility of homosexuality.

Asked whether or not he believes films can make a difference in how people perceive their sexual, political or other realities, Chen responds, yes, passionately.

"This is why I continue to work in China. If I lived here in the States I could have a better life. Everything is more convenient here than in China. That's for sure."

"I'm not saying that I have such great power in my hands in terms of changing people's lives, but I do believe that my film will influence them, at least to make people think about what's going on in our lives, about what kind of people we want to be, what changes we need to make."

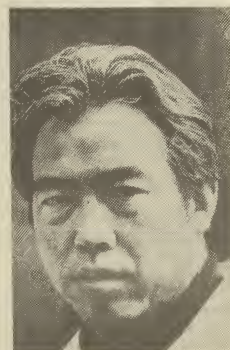
As for gay films, despite the controversy over *Farewell*, Chen sees his first one as ahead of him rather than behind. Perhaps still pondering Dieyi, he concludes, "I think a person is gay, not only because of the sex, but also the feeling. People used to focus on the sex relationship to find out whether a person is gay or not. It's more than this. It's how he sees the whole world, how he feels it. I can't prove it, but I'm convinced. ... Someday I will make a film about this."

After Deng Xiaoping approved the film, authorities insisted on a switch near the end that softened the gay overtones.

their inside world and so on, then I can say something about that."

His humility and convoluted take on Dieyi's psychology notwithstanding, Chen's handling of the character makes it clear that the director is in tune with the nuances of same-sex attraction. Beyond that, he displays a canny sense of the grand theatrics in which a diva like Dieyi might engage.

For all the politics and social analysis *Farewell* encompasses, it is often quite funny. Chen isn't past inject-



Director Chen Kaige.

Film

Narrative, Images,
Power Fine "Farewell"

Fateful Drama

by Daniel Mangin

An hour into Chen Kaige's engrossing *Farewell My Concubine*, a stern Chinese opera master outlines for his troupe the moral to a famous tale they've been performing about a loyal concubine who refuses to abandon her king even as defeat in battle awaits him. The chief message of this opera (also titled "Farewell My Concubine"): You can't beat fate.

The master is lecturing to a group of boys whom he is molding into elite performers through whippings, endless exercise and the excruciating realignment of their physical structure.

His conclusion about fate has, of course, a paralyzing potential. If one's fate — or one's country's — has already been decided, why try to fight it? Why push for change? Why challenge injustice?

But the opera contains another, somewhat contradictory lesson, namely that each person is responsible for his/her own fate. The tension between these two positions powers *Farewell My Concubine*, a film that at once manages to be highly entertaining — this is one heck of a yarn about tortured love — and extremely insightful.

Perceptive Discussion

The surface narrative concerns two of the trainees, who grow up to be stars of the Peking Opera. Offstage, Dieyi (Leslie Cheung), who plays the concubine, falls in love with Xiaolou (Zhang Fengyi), who plays the king.

The intertwined fates of the men form the basis for a perceptive discussion of Chinese history and politics from the 1920s to the 1970s. This period of near-constant upheaval began with the fall of dynastic rule, which gave way to the messy years during which the Kuomintang attempted and ultimately failed to consolidate its leadership, followed by the post-World War II communist years.

As in earlier films, such as *Yellow Earth* and *Life on a String*, Chen examines the Chinese soul, searching for clues as to why political transitions in this century have been so violent and affirming his society's need for values in which to believe while simultaneously critiquing its inability to let go of unfair and outmoded tenets.

When a boy in *Farewell* views magisterial operatic performances that achieve the ideals his master has tried to pound into him, the boy cries out, "What does it take to become a star? How many beatings?" His questions are as much a commentary on his nation's evolution as his own.

Strong Narrative

Chen, whose earlier films are characterized by long takes and purely visual exposition of themes, has to a large degree eschewed that approach in *Farewell* in favor of a strong narrative. The



Leslie Cheung in *Farewell My Concubine*.

melodrama pulls one in, but unlike *Reds* or *Doctor Zhivago* history never becomes a mere "backdrop" for a tale of passion. If anything, with the ascent of the communists, the politics overtake the love story and the characters and their concerns recede.

For all the narrative punch — and the strong acting of leads Cheung, Zhang and Gong Li — Chen still makes

his strongest points through imagery. This happens both subtly, as with Dieyi's dealings with Xiaolou's wife Juxian (Gong Li) after her husband is jailed, and emphatically, as with the rendering of life at the opera school.

One memorable shot occurs in a scene during the Cultural Revolution: A dazed Dieyi lists to screen right in his tattered concubine costume. Both he and Xiaolou are seen through the heat of flames fueled by "counterrevolutionary" documents set afire by Red Guards. The harrowing image builds in intensity as Dieyi, Xiaolou and Xiaolou's wife, worn down by the badgering of a near-hysterical mob, betray each other in hopes of saving themselves.

This is but one dazzling sequence in a triumphant conversation specific to China but with universal relevance. *Farewell My Concubine* acknowledges the hand of fate — and the realities and foibles of human nature — yet insistently presses for change. ▼

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Profile

Weiss

(Continued from page 41)

pire films they have a lot of enjoyment of the films, partly because they're just so extreme and obvious."

Subtle Collusion

Those seeking psychological parallels with the draining nature of lesbian relationships will be disappointed. Weiss does not pretend to know what insights even a somewhat redeemed lesbian vampire might have to offer. "I tried not to look at films in terms of how so-called realistic they are, but rather to point out that films aren't realistic at all. They're com-

pletely constructed." Some constructionists sure

Weiss sees the lesbian vampire's redemption in cultural rather than political terms.

are easier to live with than others. While an aptitude for subversive reading may be

necessary when sitting through schlock-fests like Hammer Studio's X-rated "sexploitation" flicks, the revamped approach of more recent films is easier on the throat. Weiss cited the late, great Delphine Seyrig's performance as the legendary Countess Elisabeth Bathory of Transylvania in Harry Kumel's *Daughter's of Darkness*. "The subversion's not just going on by the spectator, it's going on within the film. And she (Seyrig) brings to it, certainly, a tremendous amount of dignity. That's a deliberate reworking of the lesbian vampire."

When she's not staking out those immortal bloodsuckers of the screen, Weiss divides her time between "writing and filmmaking" in Paris, Berlin, New York and London. Her professional partner, Greta Schiller, with whom she worked on the films *Before Stonewall* (1985) and *International Sweethearts of Rhythm* (1986), is also her lover and flatmate of 13 years. Lesbian vampires should always love so long. ▼

Editor's Note: Andrea Weiss will be at Black Oak Books in Berkeley, Wednesday, Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m.; A Different Light Bookstore, Thursday, Nov. 4; and at the Castro, Nov. 5 at 8 p.m. The Castro show is preceded by a champagne reception. Tickets are \$25 for show and reception; \$7 for show only. Tickets are available at A Different Light Bookstore. For information, call 703-8650.



Dracula's Daughter (1936)

Books

Framing Lesbian Love

Vampires and Violets: Lesbians in Film
by Andrea Weiss; Penguin Books, \$12.50

by Daniel Mangin

Images of women loving women are so scarce in the cinema that it is difficult to draw solid conclusions about what the existing examples really convey. Even more complicated, given the mechanics of life in the closet and patriarchal culture's indifference to all women's history (much less lesbians), is determining how lesbians of the past reacted to and appropriated images from the cinema.

Filmmaker and cultural historian Andrea Weiss makes a bold and intelligent attempt to analyze both in *Violets and Vampires*, published last year in Britain and now available in the U.S.

The book covers six major areas: early silent and sound films; lesbian spectatorship during Hollywood's "Golden Age"; the emerging visibility in post-World War II cinema; the lesbian vampire genre; how art films position same-sex love; and post-Stonewall independent cinema. The always accessible text refines some discussions about representation that have been taking place in lesbian-feminist and other theoretical circles.

Weiss makes an adept connection between screen portraits of lesbians and prevailing psychological theories in any given decade. Since these theories until the mid-1970s were consistently disparaging, it will come as no surprise that she finds the dominant cinema working to "construct lesbianism as deviance."

The combination of negation and erasure that Weiss chronicles renews one's eagerness to participate in the removal of cinema stereotypes, but the author is wary of any knee-jerk quest for "non-stereotypical" portraits. She rues the "happen to be gay" syndrome in post-gay liberation films and television, in which characters have same-sex lovers but look and act "heterosexual in all other regards." What she believes will bring about true change is not simply removing an offending stereotype but attacking and "questioning the ideological processes that gave rise to it in the first place."

Vampires and Violets does precisely this, and its main strength is Weiss' concentration on the aesthetic strategies — some of them blunt, others quite subtle — employed over the decades to

undermine lesbian desire.

Adroit Analysis

The book's analysis of *Night of the Iguana* (1964) is particularly adroit. In *Night*, actual references to lesbianism are slight. Even the "lesbian" character, Miss Fellowes, doesn't fully perceive her orientation. Says another character, "If she knew the truth about herself, it would destroy her."

Yet despite Miss Fellowes' lack of self-awareness, through framing and juxtapositioning of imagery, the film establishes "heterosexuality as 'natural' and homosexuality as 'unnatural.'" In a showdown between female heterosexuality and lesbianism, the former's triumph is so complete that Miss Fellowes is "permanently banished" from the film.

If the neurotic Miss Fellowes is an ineffectual predator, the women in Weiss' chapter on vampires more than pick up the slack. Unlike some of the more heinous les-

The book's main strength is its focus on the aesthetic strategies employed to undermine lesbian desire.

bian villains throughout cinema's history, the vampires, destructive as they may be, are far more complex.

That the vampires resonate with lesbian audiences even though in most cases the primary audience for the films is male, has to do with lesbians' relationship to the characters.

"Instead of feeling endangered," Weiss writes, "lesbians can derive vicarious enjoyment from the vampire's dangerous powers. But due to her unique position, the lesbian spectator doesn't develop a fear of the vampire. And of course, as a horror film, it then falls flat. Without the element of danger, the film becomes a burlesque, to be appreciated primarily as camp."

Speculations such as the

(Continued on page 48)

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Television

Gay Character Struggles for Identity on Fox Series

Melrose Man

by Alan Frutkin

On *Melrose Place*, gay character Matt Fielding married a woman. That may upset viewers who are anxious to see honest portrayals of gay and lesbian relationships on television. But it's just fine with Doug Savant, the actor who plays Matt on Fox's prime-time soap.

"The show has every intention of making Matt a breakthrough character," Savant says. "Last year, that wasn't the case. But we're getting there."

When *Melrose Place* debuted last fall, Matt got off to a strong start in a series of episodes that cast him as a gay-bashing victim. Then he began to fade, and his future on the program was unclear.

During the past year, the creators of *Melrose Place* eliminated two unsuccessful characters on the series, and introduced two new ones. Yet all they changed about Matt was his job. No longer a social worker, Matt is now a social services administrator at the same hospital where another *Melrose* character, Dr. Michael Mancini, works.

According to Frank South, *Melrose's* co-executive producer, Matt's locale move will enable him to interact with the rest of the show's cast more frequently. It will also involve Matt in storylines that concern issues other than his sexuality. "We're trying to push Matt on all fronts," says South.

But the plots that concern Matt's sexuality still need the biggest push. And, as asexual as Matt's current "marriage" storyline is, South says that the show's creators had to fight for its approval at Fox.

For those who missed the season so far, here's a brief synopsis: A Russian intern who is working at the hospital on a visa, Katya Petrova, falls for Matt, and invites him to dinner. During the meal, Matt tells Katya he is gay. They become "friends." Katya also has a 5-year-old daughter, Nikki, and Matt grows fond of the little girl. He begins to

ma, Media Co-Chair of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's Los Angeles chapter. "It's still scary for people to conceive of gays and lesbians in relationships of their own. They're not ready for the sexual element."

However, Agrama adds, "Matt is one of the only recurring gay characters on series television. He might not be doing everything we want him to, but he's on the air."

The void Matt helped to fill on television prompted GLAAD's Los Angeles chapter to present *Melrose Place* with an award for "Outstanding Television Dramatic Series" last March. At the same time, Matt's character had already begun to vanish from most of the show's plotlines. The irony of that timing was not lost on Savant. "I'd be lying if I said I wasn't disappointed then," he says. "From the outset, I was excited about getting the role, and I anticipated much greater participation on the show."

South agrees with him. "Last year was frustrating," he says. "It's like a new frontier out there. And people are feeling it out." In fact, South says he is hopeful that Matt will become more integral to the series. And he points to Matt's expanding role this season as proof. "Now that the show is established, the network is willing to take a hit and lose advertisers — lose money — because they know the show is solid, and that other sponsors will come up."

Double Standard

In the coming weeks, South says several gay romantic interests will be introduced into Matt's life. And coupled with his "commitment" to Katya and Nikki, Matt will experience a series of conflicting emotions that are the bizarre, albeit rightful, domain of any soap star.

But questions remain as to how far the show can go. Will America ever be ready to accept two men, or two women, in an ongoing sexual relationship on television? "The amount of affection we can show heterosexually...I don't think we can do that with a gay character," says South. "We can have the relationship part of this, the dates, the emotional reality in Matt's life..." South stops there.

But the fears expressed by viewers, and in turn, network executives, indicate how deep-seated homophobia is in the television industry. And Savant faces those fears every day. So much so that he makes no statement about his own sexuality. "If you're a straight actor playing a gay character, Hollywood tends to pigeonhole you. The gay community wants to know why a gay actor isn't playing that role. And if you are a gay actor, why should you be judged solely on that? The point we're trying to make on the show is that sexuality shouldn't matter."

Yet, he adds, "You'd be an idiot if you didn't think about the implications of playing a gay character." And for lesbians and gays on television, implications are often the bottom line. ▼



Doug Savant: "Sexuality shouldn't matter."

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And it is: Separate appearances at A Different Light Bookstore by Matthew Stadler/*The Dissolution of Nicholas Dee*. Andrea Weiss/*Vampires & Violets: Lesbians in Film*. Charles Busch. Rebecca Beguin/*Hers Was the Sky*. Joan Drury. Randye Lordon. Frank Browning. David Groff. Gavin Geoffrey Dillard. John Preston/*Flesh & the Word 2*. Randy Connor. John Gilgun/*From The Inside Out*. Jyl Lynn Felman. Tony Glover. Jennifer Levin. Gregory McVey Russell. Jess Wells/*Aftershocks*. dell richards/*Superstars: 12 Lesbians Who Changed the World*. Alan Miller/*At the Club*. Judy Grahn. Marvin White. Nisa Donnelly/*Bar Stories*. Fenton Johnson. Perry Brass/*Smoke*.

For information: Pick up a lesbian/gay flier now at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro Street or pick up a full Festival Program after October 30.

Matt's "marriage" storyline is basically asexual, but South says the show's creators had to fight for its approval.

spend more time with them. Katya then tells Matt her visa is up. She asks Matt to marry her, so that she and Nikki can remain in the United States. At first Matt is reluctant, but as his fondness for the mother and daughter grows, he agrees. "That storyline is a little worrisome," says Jehan Agra-

Film Arts Festival

Slim Pickins

by Mara Math

The goals of the 1993 Film Arts Festival (Roxie Cinema, Nov. 3-7) are more laudable in concept than execution. Programs with themes such as "Mediated Identity," "Hunger for Memory" and "Into the Great Tribulation" integrate documentary and fiction, queer and straight, and a wide span of other themes and genres. In this year's schedule, there are no single nights set aside for queer films or films on racism or environmental films or experimental works. Everything is mixed. The pleasant vision of diversity integrated but not assimilated is, unfortunately,

cancelled out by the generally poor quality of the films themselves. Most of the films with queer writers or content were simply not worth advising people to spend their money on.

Limited Vision

Why is this? Did the FAF not receive enough good entries this year? If so, why not shorten the festival rather than pretend that this is the cream of contemporary independent filmmaking? Contrary to new festival director Lissa Gibbs' introduction, small budgets are not the decisive factor here, rather small imaginations or capabilities. The absolute charmer of all the films we previewed,



Gean Harwood and Bruhs Mero are longtime companions in David Collier's *For Better Or For Worse*.

queer-based and otherwise, was James Raymond's *Fingered!*, in which a lesbian finds the end to her sexual frustration when she puts herself in a musician's hands, and, incidentally, gets her comeuppance for using women as human vibrators. Lisa Farmer, Leigh Crow (not as Elvis Herselvis, but as a girl!), Sydney Erskine and Justin Bond all shine in this witty 12-minute film, a kind of Expressionist piece perfectly set to Mozart.

Playing with *Fingered!* as part of the "Love is a Many-Splendored Thing" program are *Ife*, shown in this year's Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, and *For Better or For Worse*, which has screened on PBS. *Ife*, by H. Len Collier, seems much longer than its five minutes as it sleepily attends a black French lesbian in her fabu vintage vehicle as she eyes women on the streets of San Francisco.

For Better or for Worse interviews one gay and five straight couples who have been together more than 50 years. Inconsistency in the questions asked (singer Pearl Jones and husband aren't quizzed on monogamy, unlike the other couples, and the gay men, one of whom was engaged to a woman when he met his life-mate, aren't asked how they felt about children) keep this film on the Pollyannish side. On the other hand, it's wonderful to see older/elderly couples frankly discuss sexual desire, and there are some pleasant surprises — it's the ex-military husband and his wife who had an open relationship. One caveat: although Betsy Thompson is listed as David Collier's coproducer, the interviews are definitely canted toward focusing on the male, both literally and figuratively. *Fingered!*, *Ife* and *For Better or For Worse* play together on the opening night of the festival, Nov. 3.

Queeriana

Other pieces of queer interest in the festival include *Tommy*, by Richard Sears,

an 11-minute look at an older Castro artist. The straight screeners before us apparently howled with laughter at what they considered camp, but we found it a little sad and really dull. Although one of the six Asian-American men interviewed in *Stolen Ground* is a gay Filipino, his comments on racism are not at all gay-specific. The most moving portion of this 43-minute talking-heads fest is one concerning children and parents: how to unlearn parental concepts of assimilation while acknowledging the valiant struggle that led immigrants to believe safety was found in assimilation, and how to deal with the pain racism brings our children.

Dear Rock, a posthumous letter to Rock Hudson by Jack Walsh, posits Rock as a traitor to queerdome for attempting to stay in the closet, and gives little insight to the man himself. Did he love acting too much to risk being shut out of his work, or was he only in it for the money? The visuals include a few clips from Hudson's films and endless paeans to the male body, a la his films, but remain unintelligible to non-devotees, as Walsh continues his AIDS rant over the clip's dialogue. The competition between narrative and visuals makes this a particularly frustrating experience.

Even more frustrating is *I raise my arm*, by Elise Hurwitz. Supposedly about the interior spaces of the body and "reading the body as text," it features stark black and white abstracts (of the body?) interspersed with pictures of pieces of film tacked to typewritten scraps, with a delightful soundtrack of a projector running. This is the kind of piece that gives "experimental" a bad name. ▼

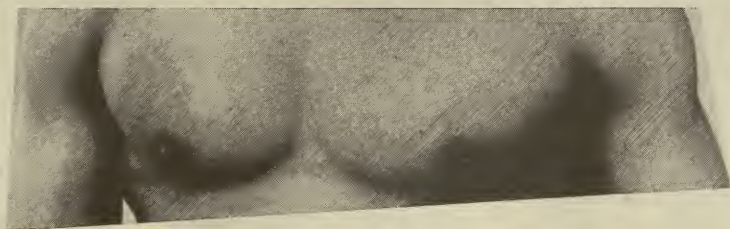
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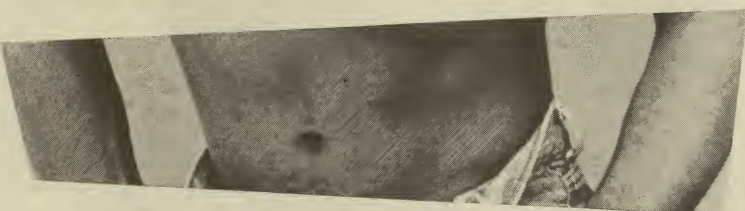
Lisa Farmer and Leigh Crow make music in *Fingered!*



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Framing

(Continued from page 46)

one above about how lesbian audiences relate to imagery are among the chief joys of *Vampires and Violets*. Although always careful to label her conjectures as such (especially when she considers spectatorship in the early part of the century) Weiss' hypotheses never seem off base.

Too Slim?

This being the first general, English-language overview of lesbianism on film, my only quibble with *Vampires and Violets* is with its slowness — with the index and filmography the book comes in at less than 200 pages. Weiss' observations about the films she chooses to highlight are so masterful she leaves one longing to know her opinions of those she doesn't examine.

In the chapter on art films, for instance, she touts the Dutch film *A Question of Silence* (1982) as "an example of how a film without a lesbian character or theme can specifically address (at least some) lesbian spectators" without including any commentary on the first two fea-

ture-length, lesbian-themed films from the Netherlands, *A Woman Like Eve* and *Twice a Woman*, both released in 1979.

Also curious is Weiss' decision to leave Donna Deitch's *Desert Hearts* out of *Vampires and Violets*' final chapter on lesbian independent cinema. The film, which is mentioned briefly in an earlier chapter, has likely been seen by more lesbians than all the films — *Damned If You Don't*, *Dyketactics*, *She Must Be Seeing Things* among them — Weiss does cover.

Although the focus of the chapter is on "transgressive" works whose form challenges customary ways of seeing, in a book that focuses on why and how lesbians have reacted to cinematic portrayals, it is odd that a movie as popular with contemporary audiences as *Desert Hearts* should get such short shrift.

Weiss clearly had other priorities, and given that *Vampires and Violets* is such a first-rate piece of scholarship, one must repeat that any disappointment her omissions engender is solely because the volume she did produce is so brilliant. ▼

Center for the Arts' Inaugural Exhibition Daunting Debut

by Roberto Friedman

Now that most of the bally hoo and media blitz surrounding the opening of the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts has calmed down, it's time for a critical assessment of what we've been given. The new buildings themselves are impressive, showy in some regards, oddly sterile in others. The theatre is a 755-seat jewel box, with a real feeling of intimacy. The "gardens" are cute, refreshing even, although I fear for the continued vitality of the stocked butterflies, and someone should turn the waterfalls down just a smidgen.

Most importantly for the city's art scene, the Center for the Arts galleries are a major new venue for contemporary art, with a curatorial staff evidently committed to supporting local artists and recognizing new talent. "In Out of the Cold," the Center's inaugural exhibition, a stimulating if unwieldy assortment of artworks, is reason enough for joining in the general acclaim.

Defusing Ethnocentrism

My first reaction was that the distance from the show's stated theme, the end of the Cold War, to its true emphasis, on identity politics and multicultural inclusion, was something of a stretch. After walking through the three galleries with Artistic Director for Visual Arts Renny Pritikin (who conceived the show with Assistant Artistic Director Rene de Guzman), the organizing intelligence became clear.

The entrance to the galleries is graced by a lightbox reproduction of the *Signing of the United Nations Charter in 1945* by American Delegation, an oil painting which hangs in the Herbst Theatre lobby. This tribute to the birth of the U.N. right here in SF is described by Pritikin, with tongue in curatorial cheek, as "eight white people deciding the fate of the world." We've come a long way, baby, from that culturally naive, ethnocentric paradigm, or at least I like to think we have.

The end of that *raison d'être* of the military-industrial complex, the Cold War, with its simplistic dualities of East and West, is not merely

a metaphor for our confusing, turbulent times. "In Out of the Cold" shows the tangible fall-out from our government's outrageous, sustained squandering of national resources on "defense." Side by side in a display case are remnants from three ruins: a slag of rubble from the Berlin Wall; debris from the LA uprising; and a chunk of Moammar Qaddafi's house, site of an American bombing in 1986. Presenting these three artifacts together points up the neglect and gutting of our own cities, as much a souvenir of the USA's militaristic priorities as any piece of the Wall. Chris Burden's 1979 installation, *The Reason for the Neutron Bomb*, makes the massive waste of funds clear: the work is a sea of nickels, each topped with a matchstick and representing a Russian tank deployed behind the Iron Curtain.

Moving through architect Fumihiko Maki's elegant connective chamber—graced by an American Bomb Drop unit labelled "safe" (whew)—into the Center's large gallery, we are met with art which testifies to the New World Order's furor of identities. Chinese, Burmese, Filipino, Chicano, African-American, Korean, Native American, even Christian—you name the subculture, it's covered. Much of this art is very, very good, such as Ernie Pepion's paintings, which engage with his experience as quadriplegic, Vietnam vet, and Native American. Some of it is overblown. But the real triumph of the exhibit is in its multiplicity, its insistence on inclusion, its defiant cacophony of voices.

Hard to See

Alas, some of the strongest works are simply badly hung. San Francisco's most feisty subculture, drag queen culture, is represented by the inimitable Jerome Caja, but her endlessly amusing miniatures are stacked so high up into the ether that some of the best and sexiest are hard to see. Likewise, Manuel Ocampo's untitled antifascist mural and Alfred J. Quirós's caricature of racist identification, *Novus Ordo*, are hung so far up they don't register with their true impact.

It's impossible to mention a fair number of the artworks here worthy of your visit, but



Troubled Waters (1993), by Betye Saar.

if you go, don't miss Franklin U.D. Westbrook's superb computer prints, which posit what public figures are really thinking while they're offering acceptable soundbites. These are politically savvy graphics reminiscent of the John Heartfield photomontages recently seen at SFMO-MA.

An artist who works with the homeless, Elaine Badgely-Arnoux, shows *The New Frontier: Rebuilding the American Dream*, an installation of shopping carts turned Conestoga wagons, their child-seat flaps inscribed with the personal histories of members of America's fastest growing subculture.

And there's no denying the gee-whiz appeal of Greg Barsamian's *Putti*, an ingenious application of clay animation techniques to a three-dimensional installation. Yes, helicopters do turn into angels—and, ominously, back again—right in front of your eyes. The effect is thrilling in its visual magic, and the piece even fits into the show's theme, with its swords-to-ploughshares bent.

So its premiere outing turns out to be an auspicious debut for our newest arts installation. Not that SFMO-MA, its new home going up across Third Street, looming like a fortress of modern art, need feel the threat of redundancy. The Center for the Arts will not be establishing a permanent collection, nor presenting exhibitions on the scale of the Modern; Pritikin characterizes his galleries as a "Kunst Halle," and their potential is as a splendid show-

case for curators willing to take risks and present art that might not otherwise be seen in our institutionalized spaces.

A final caveat, which is to note with some disdain the increasing preponderance of corporate sponsorship in these venues. Inured as I am to receiving, say, press kits from AT&T as part of museum shows, I can't help but feel it's ironic that "In Out of the Cold," a show at least in part about the excesses of Cold War militarism, is sponsored by Citibank. Need I remind readers that corporate America, banks and chemical companies alike, were among the primary sponsors of that vigorous national enterprise?

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Novus Ordo, (1993), acrylic on mahogany panels, by Alfred J. Quirós.

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Mired Myth

Black Glass

by Stuart Edelson; Dimi Press, \$19.95

by Marv. Shaw

Author Stuart Edelson has subtitled his novel *Black Glass*, "A Sea Myth." That appellation serves as advance notice of his intention to create a story that is universal in its place, time, and human experience. But, of course, he's also written a narrative of a young gay man's difficulties with himself and those around him in a hellish time and place: wartime Vietnam.

Given the central character and the situation — a youth approaching manhood in the brutally testing crucible of war — *Black Glass* does indeed have the fundamentals of a classic myth: The hero makes a journey (U.S. to the

Edelson knows the elements and seemingly has the thrust to shoot for the moon. Unfortunately, this narrative is so burdened with impediments that it never gets off the launching pad.

The main problem appears early; ironically, it's the hero himself. Michael Silver is 20, Jewish, sexually undecided, artistically inclined (sculpture), and a dedicated socialist. Naturally, he's very sensitive. As the gay male psyche goes, he's a cliché.

His status is oddly ambiguous.



Stuart Edelson

ous. Serving as a swabbie on an old freighter, semi-adapted as an aircraft carrier, he is a civilian merchant marine working under Navy regulations. Bruce, an older sailor, is the guy to whom Michael is drawn and who seems to reciprocate in some ways. More sophisticated in most ways, Bruce is a brother-mentor.

Unintended Hoots

Frequently, Edelson uses their meetings to indicate

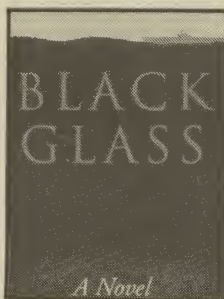
both psychological and philosophical development on Michael's part. However, these scenes ring false because it's so clearly the author speaking — the artificiality draws hoots where sympathy and serious connection are intended.

Further diminishing the novel's credibility is its grasshopper point of view. Edelson jerks the reader around from mind to mind to mind. The result can only be confusion — who is thinking or feeling what? — and finally incredulity.

To compound the problem, Michael has interior dialogues with Reason, Emotion, Guilt, and what have you. There are howlers aplenty, not to mention some "facts" that also strain one's belief. At one point, the ship's captain remarks that in his first years of service, there were cabin boys as young as 10 years old. He must've served with Captain Blood.

Vahoons, an anti-Semitic officer that the author dropped into the plot to harass the Jewish Michael, is supposed to be a Nazi who served in World War II. This, 25 years after the end of that conflict!

One wonders if the definitive gay novel of the Vietnam War will ever appear. Ten years ago, Charles Nelson's *The Boy Who Picked the Bullets Up* came close but "no cigar." Edelson obviously wanted *Black Glass* to be such a book, but its sheer ineptitude kept it from being the soaring myth he wanted to create. ▼



Philippines, to Thailand, to Vietnam, then home); encounters dangers and evils; bonds with a boon companion; has hairbreadth escapes; and wrestles repeatedly with moral choices.



Marty Pottenger: Solo construction worker

(Photo: Donna Binder)

The Heart and Soul of Marty Pottenger

New Butch in Town

by Kate Bornstein

Marty Pottenger, a professional carpenter, and one of New York's most refreshing and honest performance artists, will perform selections from her new work, *Construction Stories*, for three nights this week at Life On the Water's new Mission District studio space.

I had the good fortune to catch Pottenger's performance of *Construction Stories* in England last month. It's a unique piece that chronicles her life as a lesbian in the trades. Her style is simple, candid storytelling. There's no pretense, no art for art's sake. She shoots from the hip, and her target will most likely be your heart.

"I want to bring out the people I know from the construction industry," she said in a recent interview, "bring them out and let them be there on the stage."

Pottenger told me she hopes that, among other things, *Construction Stories* will teach her audiences something about electricity. This made me extremely curious. She laughed and then explained: "I originally wrote and performed *What is Electricity* on International Women's Day, as a way to empower women," she explained. "See, women keep trying to get concrete knowledge about the world; I decided to provide some."

Though it may not sound like it, Pottenger doesn't deal with "issues" in her straightforward writing and performance. The work itself simply raises questions for audience members to consider. "I have a tremendous confidence in my audience," she explains. "I think it's fairly accurate to assume people are as smart as our friends."

Pottenger sees herself as a gatherer. Someone who is interested in how things work. For *Construction Stories*, she

interviews people and weaves their words into her art. She uses unusual texts as part of the work: conversations, bits of tape from her answering machine, words found on walls or scrawled on sidewalks. The end result is a startling realism, made all the more powerful because of her loving take on being an artist.

In town for several months while she finishes up a novel, Pottenger tells me she'd always been a wage-worker: baby-sitter, waitress, construction worker. What, I asked, made her want to become a performance artist?

"It was doing art that spoke to me," she said, smiling. "When I was five, I would produce plays: organize them, collect the costumes, and set up the theater space. I would charge the audience a nickel." She looked up at me with a grin. "My biggest struggle was the moral dilemma of wanting to do all the best parts myself. This was a problem! So, I solved that. Now I'm a solo performer!"

My take on Pottenger's performance led me to see her as something of an urban, butch lesbian Will Rogers. Her honesty is disarming; her humor is absolutely infectious. She leaves you wanting more.

"I see myself as an ordinary person who is interested in talking about an ordinary life, which is profoundly unordinary," she says laughing. "I've always been a story collector. The telling of my own stories has made it possible for me to survive."

Marty Pottenger is only scheduled for three nights in our fair city. Catch this woman's performance while you can, and hang on to your heart. ▼

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Profile

'The Plague Mass'

Shock Value

by Scott Goetz

Wielding a three-and-a-half octave range and looks that could stop a truck, Diamanda Galas is the kind of superstar who sets the competition packing. Her blaring sound system would be the envy of Hendrix himself. Likewise, her highly developed socio-political messages could teach a generation of young rock wannabes how to look and sound like the ultimate musical rebels. Religious zealots have labeled her "cursed," "sacreligious," and "blasphemous"; the bourgeoisie dismiss her as "cheap." But for those of us who've followed her career with fascination and a noticeable tinge of envy at her lack of inhibition, Diamanda is nothing short of a musical saint. However you define her sound and message, she is, undeniably, an artist of original power and spiritual conviction. Recently, I had a chance to sit down and talk with Galas about her ongoing *Plague Mass* tour — which comes to the city on Nov 5 and 6 — and other matters.

Scott Goetz: How would you describe your work to people who've never seen you perform?

Diamanda Galas: I have referred to my sound as *Intervocal Sound*. What that means is the sound is coming straight from the bloodstream. It's a very visceral sound. *Intervocal Sound* is something I'm comfortable with, if I had to use an expression.

Did your operatic training influence this sound, or did you have this idea before you trained?

Oh, way before. I only studied *bel canto* technique because I wanted to be able to use the voice — I wanted the voice to be as piercing as a laser. I wanted it to be a very powerful instrument and I knew that that technique would make the voice as powerful as any technique could. So I studied and continue to study.

What about the show you're currently doing, *The Plague Mass*?

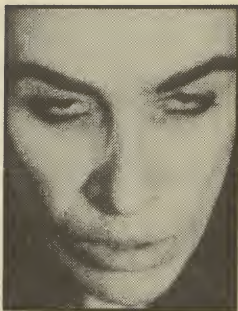
I'm doing *The Plague Mass* in LA and San Francisco for the first time. I've performed the work all over the world, most recently in Oslo. I've performed it virtually everywhere.

You call it a "scream opera" for those who have suffered from AIDS and those who dare to judge them?

I haven't termed it a 'scream opera,' but some people have. I just call it *The Plague Mass*. A *Plague Mass* is different from a tradition requiem mass in that it primarily honors people living with AIDS, the struggle of people living with AIDS and those who've died of AIDS.

You created the work in segments and then put them together?

I started working on it in



Diamanda Galas

Hunters Point, outside San Francisco. That was the only place I knew at the time where I could really rehearse without having the cops come. So out there I started to work on the text from the Old Testament. I created a lot of the work there, then I went back to London to work with my friend Dave Hunt. We went to work on the other section of *The Divine Punishment*, which includes the "this is the law of the plague" in the Leviticus chapters.

Religion seems to be a big focus of your work.

I use the Old Testament because in it we find a book of laws, upon which the clerical systems today base their decisions. For example, the decision to forbid safe sex by the Roman Catholic Church, is based on the book of laws in Leviticus — that shows a quarantine mentality. It mandates a separation of the clean from the unclean. The Church is used to house the clean and keep out the poor, powerless and sick. These texts show a kind of behavioral system, a paradigm for an epidemic.

Do you know that people have identified you with Satan because of working with these texts?

Oh, I've been identified with Satan since 1980! I mean, I don't think it's new.

I've heard that religious groups have tried to exorcise you through your records. Is that true?

Yeah. (Grinning.) It's a bunch of good old boys who don't have much else to do.

Where does the anger come from in your work?

(Laughs) It comes from living in the world as it is.

What things scared you as a child?

Being born in San Diego!

Were you somewhat isolated?

Oh, completely! We were Greek American — Greek Orthodox. We didn't have kids around the neighborhood and stuff. It was all older people so we stayed indoors and worked and did things.

Some people have said that you speak in tongues. What's your definition of that?

I don't have one. I've never tried to define that.

Where do you find beauty in your life?

That's a lovely question. I find it primarily from my friends. My friends are sweet to me. I also find a lot of beauty by being alone. But primarily it's the sweetness of my friends. ▼

The Plague Mass
The Warfield Theatre,
Nov. 5 & 6
775-7722

Music

Sacramento Riot Grrrls

Ensnared by Tiger Trap

by Adrian Roberts

There are three approaches rock bands normally take to live performance. First, there's the we're-musicians-not-performers route, where the band just plays and hopes that all goes well. Then there's the egomaniacal rock-god method wherein bands pander to the crowd by hoisting themselves on a pedestal where they can be worshipped by their devoted followers from a distance. And then, there's the more down-to-earth approach wherein the band establishes a rapport with the audience by playing as if they were putting on a show for a bunch of friends — a bit of lively banter here, some gleeful horsing around there. As evidenced by their show at Slim's last week, Sacramento's Tiger Trap falls easily within this latter category.

Tiger Trap is four young women who take an honest, amicable approach to rock 'n' roll. Playing with wide-eyed spunk, I would dare say that the band almost comes off as cute, if only that didn't sound like a put-down.

With their do-it-yourself attitude and youthful exuberance, Tiger Trap easily could

be labelled as yet another "riot grrrl" band, only these girls play with skillful precision, unlike those other brash dyke-maven bands, Bratmobile and Bikini Kill. Sure, they're not virtuosos (guitar solos are pretty rare), but they do write instantly hummable, three-minute pep songs, complete with rhyming choruses, songs about the joys and sorrows of falling in and out of love, you know, the kind of stuff that's perfect for warm, sunny, bright days.

Which is not to suggest that Tiger Trap is shallow or derivative. While still a punk band, these girls definitely know a thing or two about melody. The voices of Rose, Angela, and Jen (they're identified only by first name on their self-titled debut CD) harmonize beautifully around simple three-chord guitar crashings. Their sound on record is more tempered than when playing live, yet there is still a sense of urgency and longing to their songs. Just listen to the joyous musings on "Puzzle Pieces," or the bitter accusations of "For Sure."

One of my favorite songs from their CD is "Prettiest Boy," a soft, slow number about someone who "looks like a girl but who's really a boy." It's sung sweetly by



Tiger Trap: Singing about the joys and sorrows of falling in and out of love.

lead guitarist Angela who, unfortunately, couldn't sing it in concert last week because of a sore throat. To make up for it, the other band members traded off instrumental and lead vocal duties, mixing things up for the last five songs, which were enthusiastically received by the audience, especially the last song, scream-sung by Heather. Having been liberated from the drum kit, she grabbed a guitar and belted out a raucous number, just before stage-diving into the audience. "She's always wanted to do that," said Jen, as she watched her bandmate head-walk atop the crowd. It was such a stereotypical rock-music moment, but, hey, it rang true. Tiger Trap frequently plays San Francisco. Watch for them. ▼

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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS AND FITNESS

Sports

Gay Games Registration Opens

by Dianne Aaronson

Gay Games IV registration began the week of October 18, 1993. Gay Games organizers planned media oriented events across the country to announce the official registration packets from New York headquarters.

Supervisor Carole Migden and Gay Games II co-president Rikki Streicher greeted Team San Francisco board members and local sporting organization heads at the City

Hall Rotunda, on October 19. After Migden and Streicher made a ceremonial presentation of the first Gay Games IV registration packet to a Games-bound athlete, the TSF board passed the remaining packets to the sports co-chairs for distribution among their constituents. The 44-page registration booklets encompass all of the sports slated for the 1994 event.

Individual athletes get a copy of rules and regulations pertaining to their sport,



Gay Games registration season opens ceremoniously in a sweatpants-optional Tuesday, October 19 gathering. San Francisco Supervisor Carole Migden, front row, fourth from left, stands on City Hall steps with Team San Francisco co-chairs.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

along with a registration form/waiver and (if applica-

ble) a team roster form. If you are interested in registering, you may either contact your individual sports co-chair(s) [see below], or visit the following GGIV outlets: Fleet Feet, 2308 Market; Winship Travel, 2321 Market; or Hoys Sports, 1632 Haight.

Do It Soon

Gay Games IV's registration deadline is December 31, 1993. However, we urge you to register as early as possible because there is a ceiling on the number of participants. After registration closes, Gay Games organizers will use the month of January for tabulation. If organizers find there is room, late registration will begin on February 1 and close March 31, 1994. Team sports have a longer window of opportunity for changes: individual players on team rosters may be changed up until May 15, 1994.

Your Money or Your ...

Participating in the 1994 Games will be an extremely expensive endeavor. Regardless of sport, each participant is required to pay a basic \$60 participation fee (which they say offsets certain costs and provides for discounts to certain events).

In addition, depending on your sport, you will be required to pitch in another \$30 to \$100. The average fee seems to run about \$50. The low end is table tennis (\$30), the high end being golf and ice hockey (\$100). These fees reflect the expense of renting the particular venue (i.e., Paramount Theater in Madison Square Garden for Physique). Please note that participating in a second sport is discouraged. It requires a second fee for that sport, along with a \$25 surcharge for participating in a second sport! Also, late registration (past December 31, 1993) will cost you another \$50!

Plane Tickets and Sleeping Bags

While we're on the subject of deadlines and expenses, let me remind you that Winship Travel is handling travel and housing for Team San Francisco participants. There are still some rooms available for individuals who have not yet turned in their \$100 deposit. For those of you lucky enough to have friends and

family in New York, the \$100 deposit can be used towards travel expenses. Winship has put a lot of effort into negotiating on TSF's behalf for reasonable fares with the airlines, but be forewarned: Air tickets will be limited because it's the peak travel season, and we're competing with both the Stonewall Celebration and the World Cup. Keep some money in your bank account, because if a deal comes our way (with a limited time window) we need to jump on it.

Business Backers/ Scholarship Fund

To help offset these projected expenses, Team San Francisco created a scholarship fund two years ago. Points are given automatically to any TSF member, with additional points rewarded for each volunteer activity, attendance at a committee meeting, etc. Point accrual ends on December 31, 1993, when organizers will calculate points and assign approximate values. However, we

**Participating
in the
1994 Games
will be
an
extremely
expensive
endeavor.**

need a lot more money plunked into that scholarship fund in order for it to realistically help defray athlete costs. Small business owners can help by becoming business backers (donations of all sizes are greatly appreciated). Business backers will be recognized as official Team San Francisco sponsors to the Games and will help send many deserving athletes to New York. (Please contact Dianne at 826-9278 for more information). An alternative is to donate either an item or a service to TSF to be auctioned off at the Saturday, December 11th auction (1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Eureka Valley Rec, 18th & Collingwood).

(Continued on page 61)

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Boxing

Bay Area Boxing Club Prepares for Second Tournament

Putting On the Gloves

by Stephanie Rosenbaum

"Thank you for calling the Bay Area Boxing Club."

Since I don't know any lesbian or gay boxers personally, it was with some trepidation that I phoned the Bay Area Boxing Club, a gay and lesbian boxing group, for permission to watch a pre-tournament training session. Luckily, I got an answering machine.

"The Bay Area Boxing Club ... the boxing club that actually boxes."

What else would a boxing club do? I wondered as I left my name and number. It's not like the Bohemian Club, which you can be pretty sure isn't full of guys in goatees smoking reefer and reading Gary Snyder. Boxing is boxing, right? You put on your gloves, shake out the creases in your Everlasts, the bell rings, and bam! Clean left hook to the jaw, TKO, screaming fans, "He's down!" — three, two, one, BZZZZ! But I asked around town until a New York source told me there are certain boxing clubs where boxing is a euphemism, a code word like Plato's Symposium, where the activities are more along the lines of the wrestling scene in D.H. Lawrence's *Women in Love* than a Tyson-Spinks bout.

The Bay Area Boxing Club is serious about boxing. Tough, sweaty, rule-abiding, competitive boxing for men and women — an anomaly in a sport where men-only rules rule. In fact, the hour and a half that the BABC works out is the only time all week women are allowed in the gym.

Five men and one woman warmed up at the punching bags, shadow boxing in the wall of mirrors with the concentration of Russian ballerinas. And everywhere, there were posters, photographs, banners, hand-lettered good wishes to locals heading off to distant matches — all testaments to the glory of boxing.

"My lover and I started this particular boxing club in our attic in 1977," said club trainer Greg Varney. "It stayed underground for about a good thirteen, fourteen years. People boxed each other in garages, set up matches, and everyone, including myself was a little afraid — because you know boxing's got rough aspects."

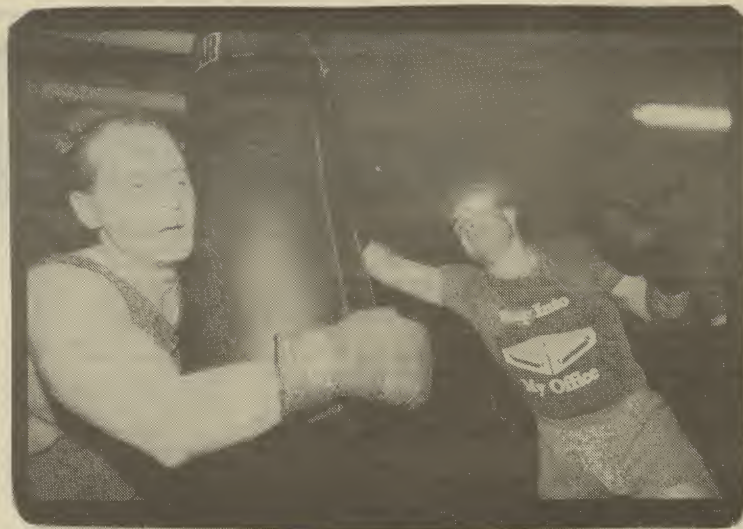
Coming Out to Colleagues

Varney, a professional trainer for over twenty years, had to come out to his boxing colleagues in order to make the club public. His fellow coaches took his homosexuality in stride. Varney stated, "We've gotten all the support in the world." However, the club still doesn't publicize the whereabouts of workouts and tournaments, since they use facilities in recreation centers low on general supervision.

The club's upcoming tournament, the Second All-Gay Boxing Rainbow Championships, will be held Oct. 30 in San Francisco, with boxers coming from Seattle and

Washington, D.C. With the 1994 Gay Games looming, the exclusion of boxing as a Gay Games sport rankles Varney. "Because we're not officially included in the Games, this is our trial event for what we like to call the Games in Exile — the sports that don't quite make it."

Unlike previous exhibition matches, the tournament's ten to fifteen matches will be competitive, with boxers scored on the number of clean blows hit as well as overall form. However, as Varney pointed out, there will be no Rocky-style fighting. This is a sport, not a brawl, and the sort of take-no-prisoners mauling so popular among the Stallone set has no place in this ring. "We stop where there's blood, we give standing counts, and we stop when a good blow is thrown. Unless it's very even, we



The grueling three-minute round on the bag — Bay Area Boxing Club members in motion.

(Photo: Phyllis Christopher)

don't let it go. There's no reason for anyone to get the shit beat out of them."

It took me a minute to pick out Elia, the one woman in the group. Compact and muscular, her attention never wavered from the mirror as she worked on her jabs.

"We've had some trouble getting off the ground with women," Varney admitted. "A lot of women wanted to have a woman trainer. I can understand that. But then I came back and I said, 'Well, there's not a lot of women boxing, and I don't know a woman

who can box as good as me, so why don't I teach you?' By using that approach, I started getting women in here."

Varney took obvious pride in Elia's form and concentration, honed after only six weeks of training. Her moves

(Continued on page 62)

WINTERFEST '94 * GAY SKI WEEK

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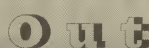
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BAY AREA REPORTER OCTOBER 28, 1993 PAGE 54

BarTalk

PERSONALS

BarTalk ads are active from Oct. 28 - Nov. 3. Available only in the Bay Area on touch-tone phones. Each call is just .98¢ per minute. You must be at least 18 years old. 1-900-844-2227

Women seeking adventure

BQF voluptuous beauty, tattoos, pierced genitalia, seeking very hip, tattooed, pierced woman who is ready to have the sex trip of her dreams. Light SM, heavy bondage. Limits respected, but not appreciated. EXT 1349.

Female Slaves wanted!!! Be submissive and ready for the most fun and strange experience ever. Call EXT 1351.

Slim, attractive Dyke seeks sex and more with same. I'm easygoing but very horny. Call me today. EXT 1394.

Bi Woman wants pretty slut boy (M/F), bottom or switch for mutual body worship, light domination, whipping, butt and dildo play and intimate wrassling. N/S only. EXT 1482.

Men seeking relationships

GBM, 40's, 5'11", 200, 9' cut seeks hot safe sex with versatile GWM/GLM 40-45, good-looking, Lt. hairy a plus. EXT 1395.

All American male, 6'2", Brown hair, blue eyes, athletic, professional, HIVneg seeks other All American males. EXT 1396.

Handsome top Asian, 27yo w/ smooth toned body, hot ass looking for WM, 25-35, HIVneg, Handsome, physically fit, mature, friendship or relationship. Lets explore the wild side...EXT 1397.

GWM 38, 6'3", 180, br/gr, beard long hair, bottom seeks LTR with long hair, beard, hung, lrg biker type, smoker ok. EXT 1402.

Take my soft daddy dick. Suck me up there, take my loads and send me on my way. HIVneg. Poss LTR. EXT 1404.

Are you HIVpos and sick of Bay Area and a bottom who wants a well hung top? Drink and smoke ok. EXT 1405.

Relationship? Wanted: Beefy, musc, Latino. I am a GWM, 6'2", 185, b/bl, attractive. 36, in shape, HIVneg, top/versatile. EXT 1406.

Tall, mature GWM, 45, non-BB with stiff boner, smkr, lkn to adore submissive GWM, 25-33, Fr/p with social evenings. LTR. EXT 1407.

Attr, gym-toned GAM, 29, 5'9", 170 seeks man of color for friendship, fun, LTR. Must be in shape to stocky. 25-35, N/S, N/D, HIVneg. EXT 1408.

Blond seeks Blond!!! 37, HIVneg, 5'9", 140, smooth, musc body. Nice round bubble butt. Relationship oriented seeks same. EXT 1409.

Cute GAM looking for tall handsome male. Must be N/S. Serious only please. EXT 1439.

Hndsm GWM, 35, 5'10", 165, musc and athletic seeks a non-smoking Asian not into bars. EXT 1440.

27yo Asian jock, gym toned and smooth tanned body wants to meet other jocks under 35yo. In shape/BB a plus, for workout, massage and more. EXT 1441.

Lingering kisses, prolonged nipple play, mutual oral delights, affection. Come play w/ intelligent, fun, caring Nordic Blond, 5'9", 158, 40's, HIVpos, smoker. Rel poss. EXT 1442.

GWM, 33, Bl/Gm, 5'6", 135, HIVneg, mostly btm seeks guys 26-38 for dating, movies, dinners, sex. Prefer Bl or Brn GWM. LTR poss. EXT 1443.

Tactile, attractive, 27, WM seeking M to age 45. Love massage, JO, oral play. Smart, in-shape. Please call. Will answer all replies. EXT 1444.

GWM, 28, 5'8", 170, hairy, stache, HIVneg, in shape, shy, sweet, seeks hunky BB, 25-45, any race for frndshp and poss rltshp. EXT 1445.

GWM, 32, Blond, 5'9", 140, good shape, gd/ing. You be 25-33, GWM, like romantic eves with fire and wine. Me HIVpos, you the same. EXT 1449.

GWM top, 28yo, 5'10", gd/ing, masc, lean, stache, drk hr/eyes, healthy seeks gd/ik W btm, 21-32, with round hungry muscle butt into getting plowed, filled and making love. Possible LTR. I'm in the South bay. EXT 1450.

GAM, 28, 5'5", 110 seeking GWM, mature, in shape, intellectual. I'm living in South Bay, willing to relocate. Drop a line if you are interest. No older than 39. EXT 1451.

Topish, Trekkie, cook, sexual, spirit/prof, wide in interest, N/S, N/A, for LTR/ dating by hot, cute American/Latin. EXT 1488.

GAM, 28, 5'9", 175, musc body, healthy, attractive seek GWM, 25-35 for friends and more EXT 1489.

Cute WM, in Santa Rosa, 36, 5'10", 160, mustache, seek same for romantic times and fun. Love to kiss and cuddle. I'm a bottom. EXT 1490.

You can massage me into submission, I can massage you to fulfillment. Wanna cum? I'm your mature, HIVneg femme tension relief. EXT 1491.

Mature femme has smooth lily white buns for you to enjoy often. HIVneg, cum adore, cum to me. EXT 1492.

Big cuddly teddy M. Drk Blu. 6'2", 190, hry bdy, generous portions looking for healthy M, 35-45, with big appetite, fun, outgoing and into good times above the belt. EXT 1493.

GAM, 27, honest friendly homebody type looking for one to one relationship with a man Gay, Straight or Bi Male/ EXT 1494.

San Jose cute Hispanic, 25, 5'9", 135 sks honest, straight acting G/W/ Mex 18-28 for frndshp, poss LTR. Ser only plz.You won't be sorry. EXT 1495.

GWM, 38, hairy, husky, balding, moustache seeks guy, 20-30 with attractive boyish looks for possible relationship. Into safe versatile sex. EXT 1496.

Men seeking adventure

Hot and horny all the time kind of guy seeks men into phone sex. EXT 1411.

Hi neighbor. GWM, husky, goodlooking, 31, HIVneg seeks G/B/M, 30's, near Sunset for mutual massage, J/O, BJ. EXT 1412.

Chaser's dream: 400 plus, GWM, vers, HIVneg, 402. You: 18-7, wt prop to ht, hot for big tits, belly, thighs, butt!!! EXT 1413.

GWM, 29, handsome seeks young pliant boys, 21-25. Be cute and slim. You love toys and have a malleable hole. EXT 1414.

Bi top seeks femme males for safe fucking, servicing and dildoe play. Femme males only. EXT 1415.

You: Goodlooking, sexy seeking young looking 32yo, tall, dark, handsome, hung 8.5. Let's take care of each other now. EXT 1403.

Intense nipple play. Me: Attractive GAM, 25. You: Attractive, 20-30. Both: Huge, sensitive nipples. EXT 1398.

Leave a message on the Bartalk Bulletin Board...or get names and numbers of peoples just like yourself who are seeking friends, partners or just a good ole passionate evening....

Sonoma County hunk. Hot, fit, athletic hot, 25-35. EXT 1399.

Super hung East Bay BIM needs similar men, age 50 plus for hot quickies, group and outdoor man to man scenes. EXT 1400.

WM, 39, very muscular, attractive, 5'5", 145 seeks men in dark, thin over the calf socks, Weejuns, Topsiders, other footwear. EXT 1422.

Itln ex-football jock seeks expert oral service on a reg basis. Castro location. All replies considered. EXT 1423.

Oakland obsession, jack off, dirty talk, phallic power. Drink, smoke, party my place, 10-11 pm dates. Buddy - buddy scene seeks mutual friend. EXT 1424.

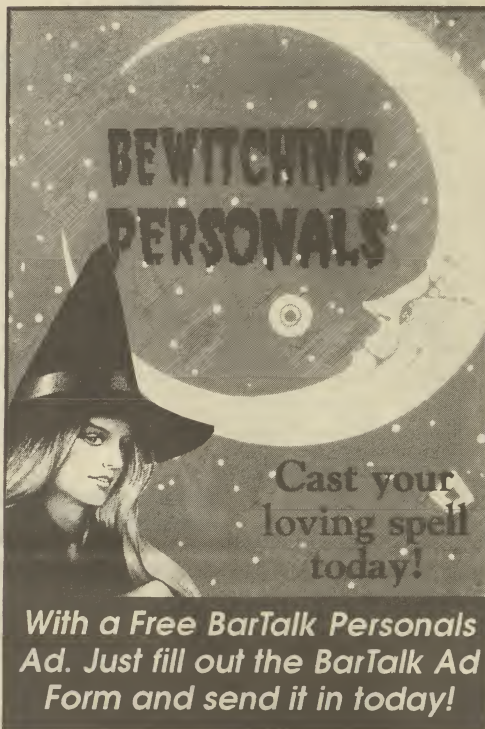
Nudist likes to be naked with other men and jack off, talk dirty, no fuck/suck. Drink, party, my place, Oakland. 10-11pm. Object: Serious cock worship. EXT 1425.

WM looking for WM to drop his pants to let me service cut or uncut dick, days or nites, videos, in or out, own a great bottom, tight and hot. EXT 1426.

Devoted cocksucker. WM sks big long dicks for regular service with WM. Str or Bi, in or out, am or pm, cut or uncut. Hot ass avail, tight and hot. EXT 1427.

Young, horny, ready to explode? Strt appearing male, mid-thirties likes to go down on hot masculine dudes. Let me fulfill your needs! EXT 1428.

Bashful cocksucker wants to service goodlooking men with large, cut, hard cocks. I am a GWM, attractive, 45yo, discreet and dedicated. EXT 1429.



BEWITCHING PERSONALS

Cast your loving spell today!

With a Free BarTalk Personals Ad. Just fill out the BarTalk Ad Form and send it in today!

GBM, HIVneg, seeks GWM, HIVneg for good times and lots of fun. Give me a call. The juice might work. Hope you are a professional. EXT 1446.

GWM, HIVpos, Italian top, 5'10", 43, 155 seeks Bl/Bl, slender bottom, 30-40 for dating/LTR. Nonsmoker, no drugs. lean, muscular, sexy body seeks cute GWM/LM, 24-32, HIVneg, masculine and hot looking a plus. Don't wait. EXT 1448.

Oakland Bottom seeks LTR with hung masc top who likes fucking smaller guy. Me: 5'3", defined, hairy bod, great legs, nipples and ass. EXT 1452.

I'm lkn for a M w/ bright shiny smile, in lt 20's or early 30's and an accomplished talent for gyng and rcvg head. Rel oriented. I'm 35, well hung, 6', 180, vry hry, Bl/Bl, educ, secure and happy. I'm a noticeable guy. I want to meet a M who is sim to me. EXT 1454.

Ardent Lover. Genuine yng man, new to area. Great looks, great heart, masculine well built, mustache, romantic, honest, spiritual Br/Br, 5'10", 165. In search of toptan w/ facial hair, N/S, who is honest, romantic, gllkg, w/ great heart, knows the value of a good friendship and intense sex. EXT 1475.

Goodlooking established GWM, 40's, HIVneg, 6'2", 190 seeks younger, trim Asian to nurture. EXT1482.

GWM, 27, 6', Br/Hzl, 165, HIVpos sks gd/ing GW/LM top professional, 30-45 for poss relationship. EXT 1483.

Prof GAM, into movies and Asian food sks strt looking GWM, 30-40, attr and fit for frndshp and dating. EXT 1484.

You: Red head, fair, blue. Me: Ital, big, guileless. Deeply want lifemate, guitarist mover, real handsome, not jaded. EXT 1485.

Handsome, sensitive direct type of M, 41, GWM, 5'10", 175, Blk/Hzl, looking for attr M, 25-40 for fun, romance relationship, HIVneg. EXT 1486.

GWM mid age, fit, N/S, quiet evenings, romantic, outdoors, seeks similar GA/BM for friendship, poss LTR. EXT 1487.

BARTALK PERSONALS AND BARTALK BULLETIN BOARD for Men and Women 1-900-844-2227.

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Must be 18.

BARTALK AD OF THE WEEK

Bi Woman wants pretty slut boy (M or F) bottom or switch for worship, light domination, whipping, butt and dildo play and intimate "wrassling." Nonsmoking only. EXT 1481.

BM, 6'5", big needs masc, hung Latino for hot man to man sex. Versatile. Let's fuck eachother hard and long. EXT 1416.

Horny BB wants expert overall oral serv by cl ct attr masc GWM with dp throat, hot tongue. Couples OK. EXT 1417.

Very handsome, masc WM bottom, 6', 170, hung big, grt body looking for tops 8.5 plus. Good to very musc for discrete, weekday meeting only. Your place. EXT 1418.

WM, 40, handsome, fit, hung seeks Latino to suck cock. You: Handsome, hung, in shape. EXT 1420.

Expert cocksucker available for group entertainment. Use me. Use my hot mouth, deep throat, satisfaction guaranteed. EXT 1421.

Sword swallowing by hot oral bottom. Bi, married, size a plus. Drop your Calvins, watch hot tapes, my mouth, your big dick. North Bay, Sonoma. Can travel. EXT 1430.

Hot Italian cum freak and ass eater seeks heavy, multiloaded horny men for regular sessions. Call for description. Avail days and eves. EXT 1431.

For hot sessions! Wanted: GWM who wear Nike Air hightops and Reebok Pumps basket ball shoes for kinky Playtime, J/O, suck sessions. Call now! EXT 1432.

32, GAM, husky, 210 loves to give guys under 45 and who are 7' plus, free BJ. Have lips/car, will travel. SFO to San Jose. EXT 1433.

BGM, 30yo, 6', 245, bearded, hairy chested seeks other bearded, hairy men for sex, oral encounters. No drugs or heavy drinkers. EXT 1410.

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 29

Arthur and Leila
Cherylene Lee's humorous play about a successful Chinese American woman and her blackmailing older brother. \$11-15. 8pm. Sun at 2pm. Bayfront Theatre, Bldg. B, Fort Mason. 776-8999.

Beyond Therapy
Quirky farce about shrinks, lovelorn bisexuals, and nut job therapists. \$20. 8pm. Hotel York's Plush Room, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.

Box Conspiracy
George Coates' latest multimedia theatre work invokes a Nielsen family and the insidious interactive tube technology that takes over their lives. \$14-34. 8pm. Thru 12/31. George Coates Performance Works, 110 McAllister. 863-4130.

of works by Aileen Kim, Claudine Ann Naganuma, Nancy Ng and Ching-Chi Yu. \$12.50-15.50. 8pm. Thru Sun (at 2pm). Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. at 17th. 621-7797.

The Gondoliers
Lamplighters' production of the zany Gilbert & Sullivan operetta. \$22. 8pm. Sun. at 2pm. Thru 11/7. Presentation Theatre, 2350 Turk at Masonic. 752-7755.

Marilyn Hacker & Raphael Campo
Author of *Going Back to the River* and editor of *The Kenyon Review* read works. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Merry-Go-Round
New play about a man who refuses to grow up and lives in a cartoon world. \$17 (previews thru Sun. \$10). 7pm. Sun. at 3pm. Thru 11/27. Climate Theatre, 252 9th St. 626-9196.

SATURDAY 30

Be, Leave
Performance slam with 14 writers, dancers and singers, including Dodie Bellamy, Fred Rinne, Hope Singsen and Keith Carollo. \$5. 2-6pm. Victoria Room, 180 6th at Howard. 255-0364.

Excalibur:
Tournament of the Sword
Improvisational interactive medieval play with lots of men in tights and tunics swinging their swords. Free. 1pm. Also Sun. Lakeside Park, Lake Merritt, Oakland. (510) 631-9833.

Full Moon Tantra
Naked hands-on sex ritual party. Costumes not necessary. \$20. 9pm. Eros, 2051 Market. 731-2834.

Gay Comedy Night
Tom Ammiano, Danny Williams, Scott Capurro. \$10. 10pm. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933.

Girth & Mirth
Annual Halloween Costume Party. 8pm. 401 Twin Peaks Blvd. 824-0260.

Halloween Dance
Clean and sober party and costume contest sponsored by AA and Al-Anon. Proceeds benefit Living Sober. \$8. 9pm-midnight. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. ASL childcare provided. 621-3349.

Jungle Red
Ultra-camp musical version of the film *The Women* is back, with more songs and a new cast, including Miss X, Donna Sachet, Ann Drogynous & Mark Sargent. \$13-15. 8pm. Sun. at 4pm. Artfull Circle Theatre, 47 Waller. 626-KILL.

Organ Horrors
Spooky organ music and singing by the SF Lesbian & Gay Chorus. Costume parade, refreshments. Benefits the MCC organ fund. \$5. 8pm. MCC 150 Eureka at 18th. 863-4434.

Philharmonia
Concert of concertos by Bach, Vivaldi and Telemann. \$20-28. 8pm. First Congregational Church of Berkeley. 392-4400.

Tim Barela
Leonard & Larry cartoonist celebrates the latest installment of one of cartoondom's funniest gay couples, now in a book. 3pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Midsummer Night's Dream.
Bill Shakespeare chestnut, with a cast of 35 directed by Ronnie Larsen. Also Fridays and Saturdays, thru 11/13. \$15. 8pm. First Congregational Church, Post & Mason. 267-6165.

Pageant
Hilarious musical drag parody of a beauty contest. 8:30pm. Fri. & Sat. at 7 & 10pm. Sun. at 3 & 8pm. Thru 10/31. Post Street Palace Theatre, 450 Post St. 989-SHOW.

Rhinoceros
Ionesco's classic tale of a world where everyone becomes a beast. \$10-12. 8pm. Thru 10/31. Open Egg Theatre, 450 Geary St. 673-1172.

The Skin of Our Teeth
Thornton Wilder's very theatrical satire condenses the history of mankind into a New Jersey family. \$12-24. 8pm. Thru 11/21. Theatre-Works, Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, Castro & Mercy sts., Mountain View. 903-6000.

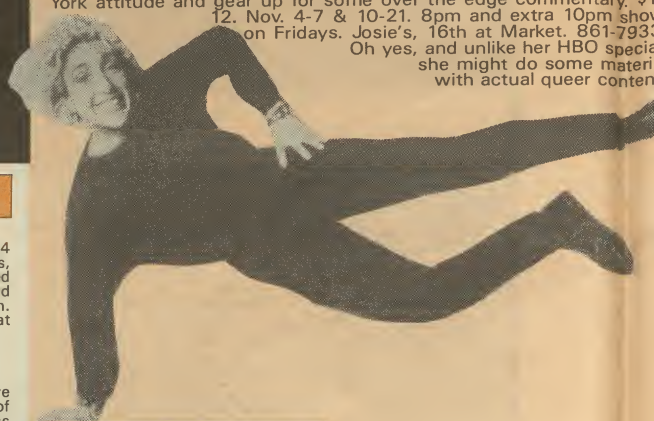
Sparks Fly IV
Dorothy Allison and Chrystos read and Melanie De More sings in a benefit for women political prisoners. \$7-25. The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 995-4735.

Suzanne Westenhoefer
Hip, haughty lesbian comic brings up the laughs. \$12. 8 & 10pm. Also Sat. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933.

You-Qun Fu
Classical and contemporary Chinese music. \$7-9. 8pm. Old First Church, Van Ness at Sacramento. 474-1608.

Renovations

Direct from New York, *Reno* invades Josie's. If you haven't enjoyed the hyperdrive comedy of *Reno*, Manhattan's reigning queen of rant, then get ready for some divine New York attitude and gear up for some over the edge commentary. \$12. Nov. 4-7 & 10-21. 8pm and extra 10pm shows on Fridays. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933. Oh yes, and unlike her HBO special she might do some material with actual queer content.



Freak Show

Halloween is the night for everyone to go wild. It's Gay Christmas, or conversely, as one pro drag queen said, "the night when all the amateurs put on heels." Whether dressing as a vampire, werewolf, mummy or even trendy creature (Pat, Beavis & Butthead, Hillary Clinton's eyebrows), be assured that in the hands of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, what could be a massive mess of dressed-up drunks, "300,000 people from Concord" as Herb Caen noted, is a much more manageable melange of dressed-up drunks. Onstage, catch Richie Waits, Ruby Begonia Bidet, Jungle Red (the drag musical and the pop vocal group), Mimi Freed, Mark Davis, Gail Hand, Treasure, Matthew Martin as Eartha Kitt and a lot of other talents, plus dance music with a light show, and a costume contest. \$1 or more donations will be accepted at the gate to benefit local AIDS and gay service groups. 8pm-midnight, Sunday, Market, Noe & 16th streets. Queer parents note: the second annual Kid's Costume Parade tours from Eureka Valley Rec. Center to Josie's Cabaret from 3:45 to 6pm.



Jungle Red and Richie Waits

Book Em!

Alert the literary authorities! The San Francisco Bay Area Book Festival is literally crawling with insects! They're actually lecturing about their ways at the Concourse Exhibition Center, 635 Eighth St. From October 31 to November 7, panels, readings and exhibits will feature the presence of such notorious authors as John Preston, Fenton Johnson, Joan Drury, Kris Kovick, Grant Michaels, and Susie Bright. Outspoken readings transpire at A Different Bookstore, 489 Castro Street, and include even more homophile talents. For Festival info, call 861-BBOOK.

Scary monsters lurk in Berkeley at the Pacific Film Archive. Enjoy the truly bad greats in the continuing **American International Pictures Tribute**, including *DePalma's Sisters* and *Blacula* (Oct.

Movie Macabre

29, 7:30 & 9:20), *Burn, Witch Burn* and *The Conqueror Worm* (Oct. 30, 7:30 & 9:15), Coppola's *Dementia 13* and Mario Bava's *Black Sunday*, possibly one of the best in the grand guignol genre of horror film, and starring the ever-cadaverous Barbara Steele! UC Berkeley's University Art Museum, 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley. (510) 642-1412.

Passion Play

It's finally here, *Jeffrey*, Paul Rudnick's hit play that some West Coast queers traveled three thousand miles to see, and one that local homos will no doubt be swarming to catch. A colorful comedy about a caterer and the bartender who makes him want to break his vow of celibacy, *Jeffrey* is a bright contemporary love story of our times, and perfect date material. Previews are \$15. The show has open run, with regular prices from \$22 to \$36. special Benefit and Cast Party will be held Nov. 8 (861-5079). Proceeds go to Theatre Rhinoceros Theatre on the Square, 450 Post St. 433-6460.



Wedding Balls: *Jumping the Broom* at Rhino (THU.)

Chained For Life
Bizarre Halloween lecture by Monte Cazazza about Siamese twins. Slides and films of carnivals, their lives, loves and deaths. \$5. ATA Gallery, 992 Valencia at 21st. 824-3890.

Construction Stories
New Yorker Marty Pottenger's solo stories about her twenty years as a dyke in the carpentry biz. An engaging and virtuoso storyteller. \$10. 8pm. Thru 10/30. Life on the Water's New Studio, 3435 Army St. at Valencia, Suite 222. 824-9394.

Delicate Pin Stripes
A full-cast version of Mae Meidav's one-person performance piece. \$10. Thru 10/30. Laval's Subterranean Theatre (which is also a pizza joint, so don't be surprised if you call). 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. (510) 540-7743.

Exeunt Severally
Farical retelling of the King Lear tale, performed by Theatre Forte. \$10. 8pm. Thru 11/20. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa at 18th. 882-1199.

Exotic & Fabulous
Halloween Costume Ball
Dancing, costume contest and prizes. Sponsored by GAPA. \$7-9. 8pm-midnight. The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 922-7091.

Fierce Sisters
Benefit for the Lesbian Avengers, with Kris Kovick, Kate Bornstein, Meaghan Gannett, & Alison Wright. \$7-15. 8pm. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 267-6195.

Ghost Stories
Abstract and narrative dance forms comprise this concert

SUNDAY 31

Brain Salad Buffet

Low-budget brain munching flicks, including *The Brain Eaters*, *The Brainiac*, and *The Brain From Planet Arous*, starring the handsome yet wooden John Agar. Grey matter will be checked at the door. Free hypothalamus massage! \$3-6, 7pm. SF Art Institute, 800 Chestnut. 558-8129.

EatPumpkin

Asian AIDS Project's Rubber Club hosts a wild and outrageous show and costume contest. \$250 first prize! Sign up by 11pm. 'N Touch, 1548 Polk St. 441-8413.

Ohlsson/Fleezanis/Grebanier Trio Concert of works by Haydn, Schumann, and Dohnanyi. \$8-12. 2pm. Hellman Hall, SF Conservatory of Music, 19th Ave. at Ortega St. 759-3475.

Old Lesbian Halloween Dance. All ages invited to this women's dance organized by GLOE and OLOC. \$5-10. 3-6pm. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. 626-7000.



Watts (above, rt.) perform on Halloween

MONDAY 1

Gay Comedy Open Mike

Aspiring comics can call to sign up by 7pm. \$5. 8pm. Josie's, 16th & Market. 861-7933.

Matthew Stadler

Author of *The Dissolution of Nicholas Dee* reads. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0892.

Patsy Cline

Not the musical show version, but our own Arturo Galster version. Shop and compare! \$2. 9pm. Cafe du Nord, 2170 Market St. 861-5016.

Punkalingus

Films and videos about punk girl gender identity, including a short about the band Bikini Kill. \$6, 6, 8, & 10pm. Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th at Valencia. 863-1087.

Preen

Todd Verow's Generation X pixel doc outdoes MTV's *Real World* in its slacker reality, with odd urban tales of Jason Rail, hairstylist/drag performer and others. \$5. 8:30pm. ATA Gallery, 992 Valencia at 21st. 824-3890.

Reed Trio

SF Symphony performers play Bach, Mozart & others in a benefit for Kairos Support for Caregivers. \$10. 12:15pm. Star Classics, 425 Hayes. 552-1110.

TUESDAY 2

An Evening With Susie Bright. Witty, provocative, sexy and subversive lec/dem on sex, porno and other tasty tidbits. Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th at Valencia. 863-1087.

Faggot With a Gun

Mark Davis takes on the fundies in a loaded comedy tale that shoots from the hip! \$10. 8pm. Tues. & Wed. thru 11/24. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933.



The nose knows:
Pinocchio the Big Fag
(THU.)

WEDNESDAY 3

Always...Patsy Cline

Country western musical about the life of the great crooner and her devoted fan Louise Seger. \$18-26. 8pm. Also 2pm Sat. and 2pm & 7pm Sun. Mason Street Theatre, 340 Mason. 98-CLINE.

Chrystos

The acclaimed Native American lesbian writer reads from *In Her I Am*, her collection of erotic tales. Free. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

High Noon

Chris Komater's installation reframes the Western classic film as a conflict between masculine and feminine roles. Thru 11/6. The Lab Gallery, 1807 Divisadero. 346-4063.

Jason Gaillard

Compelling oil paintings. 6-8pm. Thru 11/27. John Pence Gallery, 750 Post St. 441-1138.

Martin Wong

An exhibition by the New York painter and San Francisco expatriate. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Thurs. until 8. Until 11/13. San Francisco Art Institute's Walter McBean Gallery, 800 Chestnut St. 771-7072.

Talking About Thinking

Dr. Jonathan Miller, eloquent author of acclaimed books and PBS show *The Body in Question*, lectures and talks about brainy stuff. \$12-14. 8pm. Palace of Fine Arts Theatre. 392-4400.



The Incredible Bulk?
Merry-Go-Round (FRI.)



Til death do us art:
Dia de Los Muertos (THU.)

THURSDAY 4

Accept

Speed metal thrash with homoerotic overtones, we think (remember their album cover of just a guy's muscular thigh strapped in leather?). Also Lillian Axe and Strip Mind. \$13. 11ish. The Troc, 520 4th St at Bryant. 553-4010.

Andrea Weiss/Charles Busch Author of *Vampires and Violets: Lesbians in Film* discusses her book and subject at 6pm. The creator of *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* and the new *Whores of Lost Atlantis* reads or performs, we're not sure. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Coming Home Hospice Bingo \$12 buy-in. Gay and fun gambling. Go for it. 7pm. 100 Diamond St. 552-7454.

Dia de Los Muertos

Dead art from live artists. Thru 11/10. Polanco, 242 Gough St. 252-5753.

Edward Weston

35 rare photos spanning the career of the great artist. Thru 11/13. Fraenkel Gallery, 49 Geary. 981-2661.

Fred Hayes

& Lisa Salamandra Mixed media sculpture, drawing and construction exhibit. Thru 12/4. The Luggage Store, 509 Cultural Center Annex, 1007 Market near 6th. 255-5971.

Jumping the Broom

Restaged version of the romantic comedy revue about gay and lesbian weddings. \$12-18. 8pm (Sat. 5pm, Sun. 3pm). Thru 12/11. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. at Mission. 861-5079.

Kronos Quartet

World premiere of newly commissioned work, with composer Joe Henderson on tenor sax. \$16-35. 8pm. Davies Symphony Hall, Van Ness at Grove. 431-5400.

Mistablu

Casanova meets Madonna in this odd play of obsession and the quest for eternal life. Performed with a live score by bassist Shingi Eshima. \$12-15. 8:30pm. Thru 11/21. Studio 2505, 2505 Mariposa at Hampshire. 905-4605.

The Painted Journal

Exhibit of work by Heidi Denton. Thru 11/29. Women's Art Project, 3543 18th St.

Passage Through the Gong

Chamber-sized gamelan performance by Indonesia's Sardonio Dance Theatre. \$12-20. Thru 11/7. Fort Mason's Cowell Theatre. 392-4400.

Pinocchio the Big Fag

Keith Mayerson's off-beat art exhibit about the puppet with the funny nose, with animation cells from "the movie that never happened," and plates from "the book that never happened." Opening reception 5-8pm. Thru 11/20. Kiki, 483 14th St. at Guerrero. 863-KIKI.

Pygmalion

George Bernard Shaw's witty play that inspired *My Fair Lady*. \$14-38. 8pm. Wed. & Sat. at 2pm, Sun. at 3pm. Thru 11/21. American Conservatory Theatre, Mason at Geary. 749-2ACT.

(T)He (W)Rites of Mo(u)rrning Chicano gay writing workshop, with 10 members of the group doing readings, led by Ricardo A. Bracho. Free. 7:30pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

The Family Seen

Imagery of the family in contemporary society, imagined and re-imagined. \$4-8. Thru 11/20. SF Camerawork, 70 12th St. 621-1001.

Visual Music

Laura LaForet Lengyel's artwork inspired by 10th century & contemporary tunes. Opening reception, 3-6pm. 116 Maiden Lane, 3rd fl.

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PHOTO: HARBOUR STUDIOS

BAY AREA REPORTER BAZAAR

Mr. Marcus

San Jose: Reaching for Identity

For the past few years now, leather men and leather women in San Jose have been doing the same things that leather people in communities across the nation have been doing: educating those who might find the leather lifestyle and all its sub-cultures to their liking; raising consciousness for community involvement, support and input; raising funds for AIDS and other agencies that need financial support and selecting leather-title holders, male and female, to become dynamic leaders and enhance what is the least understood sub-culture of our community.

All this, of course, was under the umbrella of the Southbay Leather & Uniform Group (S.L.U.G.), a group that encompassed leather people from throughout the South Bay.

Before S.L.U.G., most leather-oriented men and women from that area headed to San Francisco on weekends to be with leather people they could identify and interact with. From my own experience, I know this to be a fact because I was involved for more than 10 years with a leather man from San Jose/Cupertino who wouldn't, to this day, be caught dead or alive in Southbay bars.

An honest evaluation of S.L.U.G.'s endeavors is that the purpose of the group from the beginning was certainly right on. Whatever happened after those initial years with Southbay leather-title holders, functions, fundraising and widespread integration with the rest of Southbay communities is subject to as many interpretations as you care to imagine. I always had a good time at their functions and contests and I wouldn't dare speculate on the reason(s) for disenchantment with S.L.U.G. among Southbay leather residents. I only hope the organization soon enjoys a renaissance because, despite internal conflicts or personality clashes, S.L.U.G.



Int'l Mr. Leather Head Judge Thom Dombkowski of Chicago (left), meets Intl. Mr. Drummer Graylin Thornton at the Watering Hole last Saturday night, October 23, for the great Buns Calendar signing benefiting the AIDS Emergency Fund.

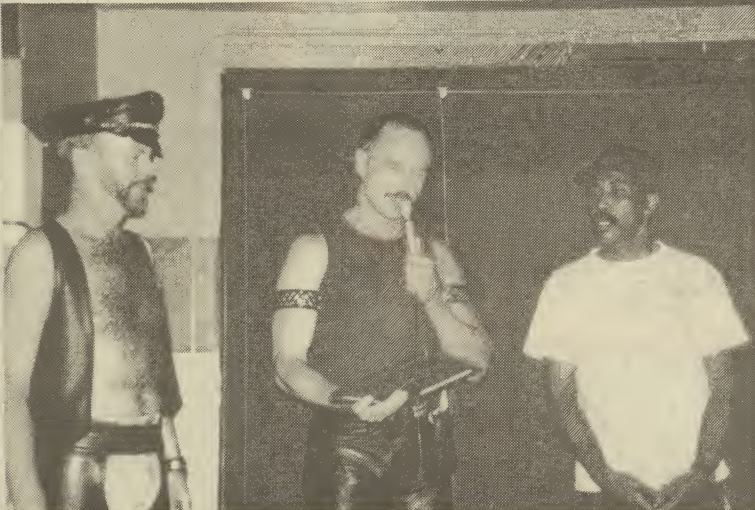
(Photo: Mr. Marcus)

should continue to be a vital and driving force in the Southbay, as they have been in the past. I don't think I'm meddling in their affairs either. I have supported S.L.U.G. from the beginning in spite of conflicting input which I chose to ignore. I get enough mail and input from lots of Southbay people who are in a dilemma about the situation with S.L.U.G. I wish them much luck in making a dynamic comeback.

Now, San Jose leather people and the community at large are invited to participate in and attend the first San Jose Leather Fest 1993, the weekend of November 5-7, sponsored by Leather Masters, the main leather store in San Jose. Obviously, David Carranza, a longtime activist in his city and a firm believer in the leather pride he knows exists there, spearheads the weekend beginning with a Meet & Greet the Contestants Party at Renegades on Fri-

day, Nov 5; Saturday, Intl. Mr. Drummer, Graylin Thornton, presents Safe Sex 101 (Non Vanilla) from 1300-1500 at the Watergarden. That same night, Fetish auction and pre-judging at Greg's Ballroom; Sunday, Nov. 7, a leather brunch from 1300-1600 at Wuzzy's and from 1700-2300, the Mr./Ms. San Jose Leather Contest & Party at FX, the Club. All of these events benefit various charities. Tickets are available at Leather Masters, Greg's Ball Room and FX, the Club. Expect a lot of participation from around the Bay Area for this one. Don't be left out!

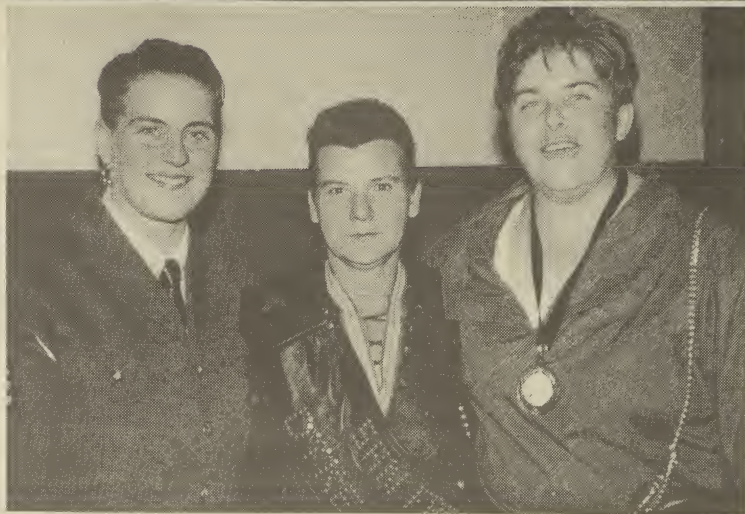
With Mr. Southbay Leather Paul Maionchi making a big splash at Intl. Mr. Leather in Chicago last May and Ms. Southbay Leather Heidi doing such a dynamic job all over the Bay Area, and now Graylin Thornton having won the Intl. Mr. Drummer title, it is safe to say — no quite proper — that



With SF Leather Daddy Philip Turner looking on (left), AIDS Emergency Fund Board member Art Tomaszewski presented a certificate of appreciation to Watering Hole manager Vern Stewart for his efforts with the Great Buns Calendar, sold to benefit the A.E.F.

(Photo: Mr. Marcus)

Mr. Marcus



Dyke Daddies (l to r): Skeeter Wildman, her successor Jo Leroux and Sacramento's Shannon Morgan pose together after Jo's triumph in the 3rd Annual Contest on October 15.

(Photo: Mr. Marcus)

San Jose's leather community has lived long enough under the umbrella of the entire Southbay, San Jose, formerly the prune capital of the world, home of the Sharks hockey team and that dynamic new sports arena, is now a splendid downtown business — and leather district — too? It couldn't have happened to a nicer Northern California city!

The lull before the holiday season casts a lethargic ambience all over except for some of our leather-title holders who never say die. Last Friday lots of people converged on the Eagle's patio for Danny Williams' benefit birthday party. Lots of great entertainment and flawless weather. Danny still hasn't given us his age, but what the hell, it's not the age, it's the attitude that counts, and Danny certainly has the right attitude! For the AIDS Emergency Fund, of course!

Saturday night, Intl. Mr. Leather's head judge, Thom Dombkowski blew into town and was at the Watering Hole to see the Great Buns calen-

dar signing hosted by Leather Daddy Philip Turner and Art Tomaszewski. Only four of the buns winners were there but Mr. Drummer Graylin and Drummer Boy Spot were there too.

Sunday afternoon, an exuberant crowd happy over the 49ers win over Phoenix, was at the Eagle for the Cal Eagles' Oktoberfest — boy were those weenies big! Even Mark Siegler from Seattle and Franco the Italian stallion from Munich were amazed at the size(s) of the weenies on that patio!

Last night, Wednesday, Oct. 27, RoB Gallery opened a dynamic art show direct from Amsterdam at their 22 Shotwell location. It's the work of Max Springer with photographs, drawings and oil paintings hanging through Christmas. Max says his work "... is a look at fetish; not gay, not hetero, just fetish." You will not be disappointed in this statement of fetish issues and the dark repressed aspects of human nature. Call Chris at RoB Gallery (415)

252-1198 for hours, etc.

The memorial service for the late John Siracusa is set for Saturday, Nov. 6 at 1300 in Golden Gate Park. The site is at Middle Lake in the Chain of Lakes, near 43rd Avenue. Maps to the site are available at 18th Street Services (272 Church) and at The Country Club. Or call Skeeter at 661-9721 for more details.

Those leather pride and gay pride embroidered t-shirts are hard to find, but if you are still wanting one they're available at Mercury Mail Order (aka, The Dildo Mines) at 4084 — 18th St. They're 100 percent cotton and, to get a whole shirt, you'll have to plunk down \$22.50. Medium and large sizes only available at this time.

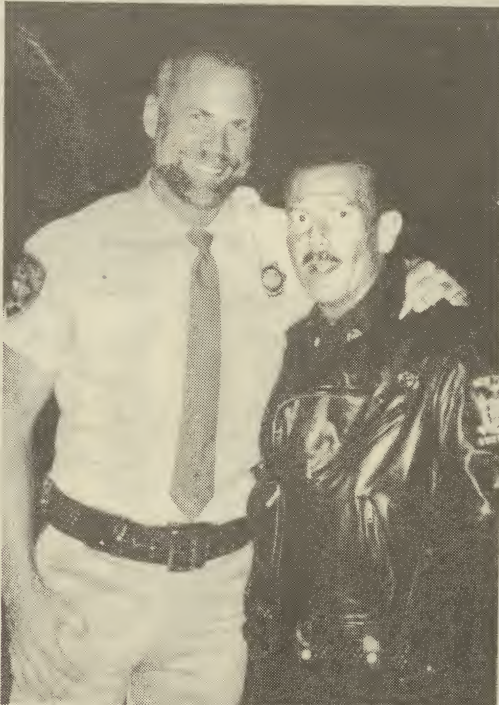
Dish Kebab

Would I be remiss if I didn't name that major former leather-title holder sitting at Milano Joe's on Folsom dining with a handsome dude last Saturday night? I guess he doesn't care who knows about it because why else would he sit right in the front window with all sorts of leather trash walking by?

Guess who begins working at the RoB Gallery leather store on November 1st? I thought Jamie Santos was headed for theatrical productions and leather contests and here she is, Sewing on Shotwell, and all this time I thought it would be on 7th Street!

That nomadic freak "Spunky," formerly of Cuperfino, formerly of Fremont,

(Continued on next page)



American Uniform Association's 10th Annual "Review" in Los Angeles in early October, brought out uniform enthusiasts from all over the world. Michael Mitchell (right), of Detroit and an unidentified hunk seemed to be enjoying themselves immensely.

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Affairs to Remember

Thursday, Oct. 28: Sluts for Sensation SM Dyke Party at Club Eros tonight! Doors open between 2000 and 2200, and play until 0100 tomorrow. Dress mean and play safe!

Hot Ash West night at the Lone Star Saloon this evening. Bring your stogies and freak freely — and frequently.

Friday, Oct. 29: Annual Leather & Feathers Halloween costume competition at the SF-Eagle tonight at 2100. \$100 cash prizes for best humorous costume, best group, and best "in theme." Judges at my deadline: B.A.R. Calendar Editor Jim Provenzano; Seattle's Mark Siegel; the beloved social arbiter of leather, "Mama"; Leather Daddy Philip Turner; and the Cal Eagles' John Janeczko. See you there!

Saturday, Oct. 30: Mr. and Ms. Alameda Leather Randy and Beth present "A Night of Leather Lust" at Bill's Eagle in San Leandro from 2000-2300. Fantasies and performances. Riding BART? Get off at Bayfair Station. Call (510) 357-7343 for info and directions.

Ms. RushRiv Leather Abigail hosts a Halloween gathering at

her store, Sensations, in Guerneville tonight from 1900 until 200 tomorrow.

Pumpkin-carving competition for cash prizes at the Watering Hole from 2100 onward. Whip out that tool and carve, carve for cash!

Sunday, Oct. 31: It's Halloween! One of gaydom's biggest holidays. Besides the madness on Castro, the SF Wrestling Club hosts the beer/soda bust at the Eagle for \$8 from 1500-1800 — featuring women! This should be hot! Food and a unique experience this time!

"Hollywood and the Movies" is the theme for costume competition at the Watering Hole tonight from 2100-2400. Cash prizes. Fun. The King of Leather and more!

Wednesday, Nov. 3: Welcome to the Neighborhood party for all Mister S employees and customers at the Watering Hole from 1900-2100. The new store is flawless. Been there yet?

Leather Buddies play party for men into leather/uniforms and rubber at 933 Harrison tonight. Dress code strictly enforced, but there's a St. Andrews Cross, slings, and glory holes.

Call (415) 979-0242 for details if you're man enough.

Weekend Nov. 5-7: San Jose Leatherfest '93 all this weekend. See above for details. Don't miss!

Friday, Nov. 5: Leather Daddy Philip and his boy Greg present "Sylvester Lives" party at the Eagle from 2000-2300 for \$8 beer/soda bust and Deena Jones as Sylvester! Choreographed by Ms. Leather of SF Queen Cougar. Benefiting the G/L Historical Society of Northern California to preserve Sylvester's costumes.

Saturday, Nov. 6: Covermen Jef Kennedy (bare chest) and Richard Faust (great buns) host a calendar signing party at the Eagle tonight from 2000-2300 for a \$6 beer/soda bust. All the chests and buns will be there. Great Xmas gift — and signed!

Sunday, Nov. 7: Constantines MC Fall Field events start with a mini-ride from the Watering Hole, departing at 1100, and end with a soda/beer bust at the Eagle from 1500-1800 for \$8 with food! Call Dale at 285-1965 or Gary at 922-8960. ▼

(Continued from previous page)

more often from San Jose's Leto House, spent nearly five whole hours at the Watering Hole last Sunday evening. He knows better than to frequent the Eagle where his EX — and I do mean EX — is just waiting to lay him out to filth. Any man not man enough to

explain his actions deserves to be laid out to filth.

My Exclusive Scoop: I know a lot of you have been mourning over the fact that Men Behind Bars has not been produced for the past two years, but start saving your tokens, because Men Be-

hind Bars 1994 is already on the drawing board. Two dynamic people (I'm not at liberty to name them at the moment) are putting it together. Hallelujah! I'll give you the exclusive details as soon as they're firmed up! ▼



Danny Rodriguez displays his "in theme" leather and feather costume at an earlier Leather & Feather Halloween competition at the Eagle, repeating this Friday night, Oct. 29 at 2100.

(Photo: Mr. Marcus)

Sports

Gay Games

(Continued from page 52)

Let's continue to keep San Francisco the largest contingent at the Games.

Uniforms

At the last TSF general meeting the official uniform for Gay Games IV was selected. Samples in various sizes should be available to try on within the next couple of weeks, along with order forms, at Fleet Feet and High Gear (600 Castro). Sample sizes will run from XS to XXL.

Sports Categories

You can participate in the following sports events in GGLV. If your sport of choice does not indicate a sports chair, call TSF at 824-8118.

Aerobics — Kathleen Kirkish (510) 482-3637

Badminton — TSF at 824-8118

Basketball — Tony Jasinski 621-2710, Susan Kennedy 648-4931

Billiards — TSF at 824-8118

Bowling — Hanolei Ofaleia 648-4615

Cycling — Rexx Andersoh (510) 426-0226

Diving — TSF at 824-8118

Figure Skating — TSF at 824-8118

Flag Football — Gary Thompson 344-8873

Golf — TSF at 824-8118

Ice Hockey — TSF at 824-8118

In-Line Skating — TSF at 824-8118

Marathon — Dave Studach 626-1380, Charles Levitt (510) 843-3225

Martial Arts — Allen Wood (510) 525-6356 (& Judo)

Physique — Dianne Aaronson 826-9278, Steve Eidelberg 282-9400

Powerlifting — Sheila Parham (510) 420-1374

Racquetball — Wref Fulton 626-7758

Soccer — TSF at 824-8118

Softball — Wendy Gershow (510) 436-7959

Sport Climbing — TSF at 824-8118

Squash — Wayne Bender (510) 530-2422

Swimming — David Mitchell 386-3070

Table Tennis — Allen Balderson 626-1787

Tennis — Abi Jeung 333-9618

Track and Field — Aaron Levin 255-7080, Rick Thoman 550-7966

5 and 10 K — Gwen McEvoy 282-4966, Rod Doby 621-2213

Triathlon — Kris Nergaard 648-8778

Volleyball — Tony Travers 255-1332

Water Polo — TSF at 824-8118

Wrestling — Dave Wagner 558-8412, Barbara Arms 626-8285

Team San Francisco's next general membership meeting will be held on Saturday, December 4 at Eureka Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood. It's not too late to get involved. ▼

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Boxing

(Continued from page 53)

were good, but she's a lightweight — 130 pounds and dropping. Varney's only worry now is finding someone to match Elia with in the tournament; he heard the women coming in from Seattle are big. They could easily have fifty pounds on her — not a handicap a new boxer wants for her first tournament.

Most Consistent

But Elia's used to competition — she's going to the Gay Games next year as a cyclist with Team San Francisco. Already familiar with karate, she started boxing as a way to cross train. Although other women attend, Elia's the most consistent female boxer. As we talked in a corner of the gym, men paired up for three-minute rounds with the punching bags. This is tough. Elia told me, "You go for three minutes, and I swear, you feel like you're made of

noodles by the end, like you don't have anything left. With cycling and everything else, I don't feel like I really sweat, but this is a real workout. Cycling is fun — this is work!"

After a few rounds of sparring, she demonstrated the truth of her words: she emerged from the ring soaked with sweat.

The training paused for a pre-tournament pep talk. The boxers are reminded to be at the gym before four o'clock. "And if you don't think I'll scratch you [for being late], just try me," warned Varney, sounding like everyone's tough-love high school football coach. Members are warned against eating bananas (they increase the pain of body blows), reminded to use the facilities before getting their hands wrapped, and above all, encouraged to stay focused and relaxed before their matches. That means no talking to the other clubs, no forgetting of mouth guards or last-minute fussing. Have a San Francisco attitude, the

boxers are told. Use your head. Psyche 'em out.

When the practice resumed, I sidestepped swinging bags to talk to a few guys. I wanted to find out why they went out for boxing.

For some it was an expression of a simple desire: the love of fighting. "I love to fight," said a boxer named Mike, wearing a tight red T-shirt with the phrase "Come Into My Office" emblazoned under an image of a boxing ring. "I was looking for an outlet besides the streets. Here, it's safe, it's structured — it's fantastic. It's an incredibly intense way of relating to other men," he said, "a high-stakes dance so passionate in physical awareness that it's almost like sex."

Tommy started boxing as a way to combat his fear of the ring. "I wanted to get into another sport besides weight lifting, and boxing always kind of frightened me, the confrontational aspects of being in the ring and not being able to run. So I wanted to

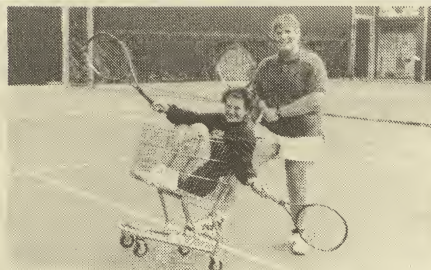
teach myself the ability to face that, and this has done it to some degree."

The fierce, controlled violence of the ring dissolved into good-bye hugs and loose camaraderie as the practice ended. Later, I remembered that while watching the workouts, Tommy had turned me

to me and said, "It's not very gay, is it?" And much as I hate stereotyping, I had to admit I'd never thought of gay men or lesbians as boxers before this night. ▼

Author's Note: For BABC information, call 585-2365. ▼

Sports Briefs



Lyon-Martin Benefit Butch-femme Tennis tournament pros showing off their unique approach to tennis games — Jasna Stefanovic and Jennifer Shorr. (Photo: Nanette Gartrell, M.D.)

Tennis in Costumes?

"Here's your only opportunity to play or watch tennis in costumes," said Third Annual Lesbian Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament organizer Nanette Gartrell, M.D.

For many entrants, the costumes alone prove well worth the trip. For Martina fans, this tournament is a chance to bid for special memorabilia: this year tennis giant and lesbian advocate Navratilova has donated "a racket, very used biking shorts, and two T-shirts, all signed — for our auction," according to Gartrell. You don't have to be an experienced auction bidder or tennis player to participate. This October 30-31 tournament — for pros and amateurs — features butch/femme teams, a women's health and fitness fair, and fabulously funny judge and commentator JoAnn Loulan. The event benefits the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services. Call (415) 346-2336 for an entry form.

Martina's Last Bay Area Stand?

The Bank of the West Classic is the longest continuous running women's only tournament in the world and will feature 28 of the world's top women tennis players. It is no surprise that Martina Navratilova will play in the Bank of the West Classic, at the Oakland Coliseum, November 1-7. However, the Bank of the West Classic is hinting this may be Navratilova's last Bay Area tennis appearance. The finals will be Sunday, November 7 at 1:30 pm. Tracy Austin and other tennis greats also expected. Tickets are \$10-25 and can be ordered through BASS.

Surprise, Surprise Run

What do lesbian and gay long distance runners do on Halloween?

B.A.R. called Bay Area Distance Runners contact person Dave Studach, who informed us BADR partook in a special run — the "Suprise, Suprise Run."

B.A.R. asked, "Dave, How did it get the name, 'Suprise, Suprise?'"

"We couldn't think of any

other name for it," said Studach.

B.A.R. asked, "What's so unique about this run?" "We can't tell you, it's a surprise!" said Studach.

We countered with another attempt at unraveling the secrets of BADR's run, "What did you do last year?"

"We had a search for 'Laura Palmer,' and of course we had to run up Twin Peaks. We planted a rubber blow-up doll and when the runners discovered her, they carried her through the Castro," said Studach.

So mystery, running, popular culture, and fun are intertwined in this event, and B.A.R.'s investigative methods revealed a few other tips: Dave Studach said, "We encourage people to dress up if they want to dress up for this run." BADR will offer a grand prize to some lucky runner. The group will also participate in two-mile loops of the Castro, complete with costume exchanges. Costumes for runners? B.A.R. Sports staff and readers all know well that the longer the run, the less you want to wear some heavy costume, or anything weird weighing over 16 ounces. We asked Studach to please define for us examples of Halloween alternative running gear. Here are Studach's suggestions: "Zany shorts, non-matching tights, back-



Laura Palmer, the doll, escorted down from Twin Peaks by the Bay Area Distance Runners during Halloween's 1992 Suprise run.

ward clothes, hats, feather boas, or anything light."

BADR's Suprise, Suprise run is a 20-mile training run Sunday, October 31. There are members of all speeds, so if you're interested, call Dave Studach for the Suprise, Suprise start location and other details — 626-1380, or try Lois Allen 586-6013. ▼

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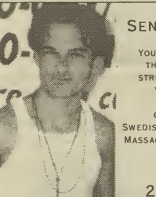
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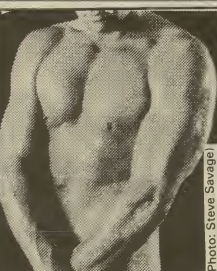
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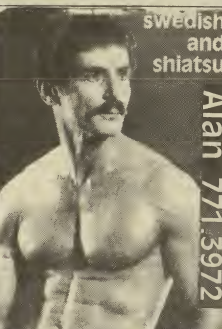
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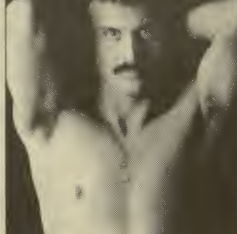


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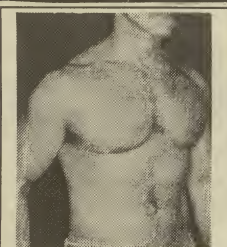


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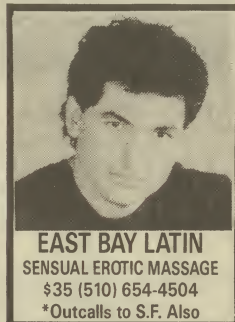
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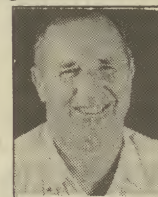
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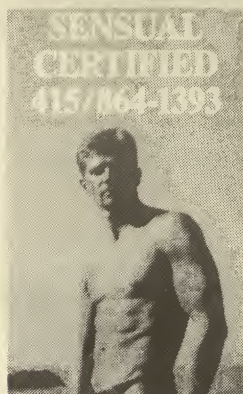
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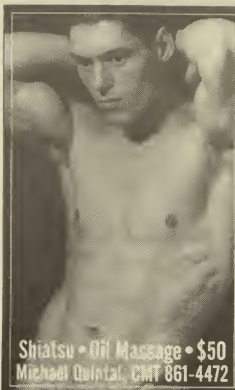


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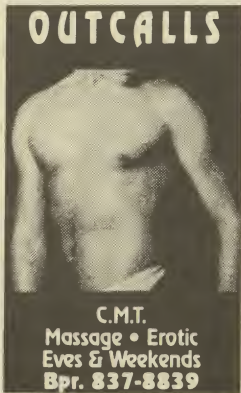
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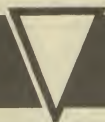
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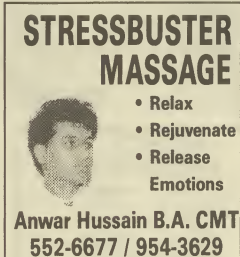
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DIRTY MOUTH
SHOWOFF
8X6" MAC 267-1800**

hooded man
in black rubber
from head to toe
will visit your home
for reasonable fee
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aggressive muscle boy
**hot model
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7"
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KNEADS & PLEASURES
ASIAN 6'4" 175
Arousing, Safe & Friendly
Escort And Massage
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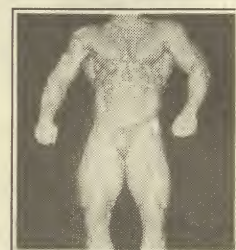
**PUERTO RICAN
PLEASURE**
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Well Gifted
Niko 285-4710 E43

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X-Sexy, X-Hot X-Hard 9x7
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9X6 UNCUT TUBE!
6'3", 220 lbs., of the most
masculine, most muscular,
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buffed body that you want!
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in contest shape now, as
seen on E.S.P.N. Young,
Ripped, and Ready!
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6', 160 Lbs., 40 Y/O
FF CBT SLING
SPANKING CHAINS
BONDAGE TOYS
S/M
**Limits Respected
Will 922-8992**

21 y/o Sensuous Cuddly Bear
6'; 150#; Blue Eyes, Brn Hair
\$100 Out. 708-5146 Anywhere
E43

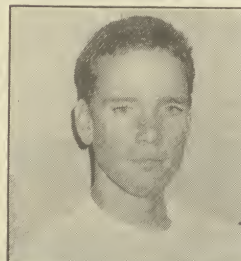
MACHO MARINE
26 y/o & Super Handsome
5'0", 160#, 30" w, 8" cut, br/bl
PAGER 245-1410 E43

Young Blonde College
Student Looking For
REGULARS
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26, 6', 245#, 19A, 30 Thighs
Big Beef, Always Ready
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BLOND, MOUTH-
WATERING & MASSIVE.
EXPERIENCED.
DOLPH PGR. 202-6587

ITALIAN BODY
B/Builder, 230 Lbs.,
6'1", 50" Ch, 20"A,
25 Years Old
From Italy
207-9337



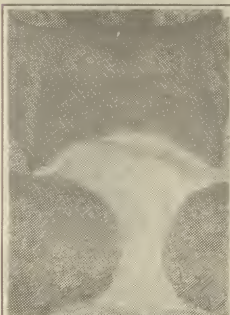
You'll Go
WOOF!
for this smooth, built, 25 yo,
BLOND STUD PUP
5'11", 170#, 8 1/2"
THICK & HARD
Verbal, fun, nice to nasty!
Playroom + toys. 280-1719

People and Personals

MODELS & ESCORTS

S/M SENSUALITY

—long, & slow—my specialty.
6'2", 185, strong, gymtuned
master into all aspects &
degrees of leatherplay.
S/M, B&D, FF WS, raunch.
Lord 431-0959



JEFF • \$100
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HOT 21 Y/O GUY

College boy Ready 4 Action
Kristian 245-0189 In/out
2nd Person Available E43

Raunchy Trick Big Treat
\$100 Top Adamn 202-6154 E43

Hot Muscular + Sensual
Bill 390-9973 E43

BRONZED STUD

HAS IT ALL!
SLEEK, RICH, TAN
TIGHT, BUFFED BODY
Well bred, Mature Minded,
Affectionate, lots of fun!
OK for in-calls & hotels
Pager (415) 207-2516
Not To Be Deceived E43

Creole Boy—Petite, Tight
Available for massage &
Escort. Patrice 739-1997 E43

IRISH BOXER

5'10", 180 BLD HR
BL EYES TIGHT BOD
P: 406-3092 PATRICK E43

HOT HANDSOME 24 Y/O
Does It All For You
Call David Now 627-1766 E43

HOT UNCUT 19 YO BOY
Andy 954-3722 E43

Hnsm Asian Smth Yng Hung
7" MONGOLIAN BEEF
5'9", 165#, 292-2439 Randy E43

MUSCLES HORSE HUNG
LEATHER 285-3856 E43



DALLAS - 626-3991
Model/Masseur

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Can Use!
B.A.R.

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HOT HAWAIIAN
FILIPINO
29, smooth and muscular for
striptease or massage.
Alan 626-7410 E43

"MORE" FOR LE\$S
Fine 10" Stud — New to SF
Chris 626-9281 E44

Hunky & Hot
Black Bodybuilder
(415) 487-6319 E43



Sexy Goodlooking
HOT ASIAN
Tom, pager 219-1655 E46

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YOUNG • BLOND
X•Cute•Buffed•Smooth Body! E43

NEW MUSCLE
Ex-hung comp B.B. Out Only
5'10", 225, 9", 337-4364 E43

HOT RUSSIAN

8" Uncut, 5'9", 150#, 26 y/o \$70
All scenes. pgr. 708-0180 E44

26 y/o, 6'4", 190#, Hung 8½"
HOT TOP
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Steve EastBay/SanFran E43



KURT 665-9903



Friendly, Handsome
Buffed, Sensual
TONY 597-3613

252-UOMO



HANDSOME MAN
Hung puppy top. 739-0227 E43

★ So You Like em' Young ★★
1 HOT LITTLE BOY
Tight, Smooth, Hungry Ass-★
Built 4 fun! Tony 560-9794 E43

BLACK N LEATHER
Chris 928-2609 E43

straight image
muscle boy
clean cut
well dressed
professional
friendly & safe
alexander 997-7372

ROBERT

Young, Hung & Full of Fun!
Smooth, 5'7", 145 lbs., 21 yrs
Pager# 245-1093 24 hrs/7D E44

NOT A • BUT A
TRICK • TREAT

I'm 28, clean cut, gymtuned
sensual + very attractive
Let's Talk! Clay 245-0727
***** E43

UNCUT SEXY LATIN
Likes To Satisfy, Older or
Heavier, OK. \$50. 979-5611 E44

SEXY GUY

Hung 9" and the Hottest



775-4771 24 Hours



HOT
28, 6', 185#
INCREDIBLY
HANDSOME
BROWN HAIR
BLUE-EYED
SMOOTH, TAN
RIPPED BODY
GREAT LEGS
VERY SEXY
MASCULINE
9X6 CUT
TOTALLY HOT
CALL BUCK
280-0725
Photo: Steve Savage 626-2610



TATTOOED BIKER
BOY
JO & WS
Pierce — 546-7825 E43

Dungeon Master
DAGEN
6ft, Slim, Smooth, Sexy, 27 y/o
Bondage to Buttplay Top
Explore Stocked Playroom
S/M, B/D, T/T, F/F, CBT.
Safe, Sane
Hot, Healthy Handsome. \$100.
647-4159 E48

HOT BOY
TO GO
UNCUT 6'
SPANKING
NIPPLE TORTURE
NO TIME LIMIT
TERRY 267-3913 E44

COLT MODEL
HANDSOME
27 YR, B/BUILDER
695-0738 E43

BLACK MAGIC
X-HANDSOME
HUNG STUD
Smooth 8" Thick
Top. Professional
Friendly & Serious.
\$100 OUT ONLY. TEDDY
PAGER 923-8374 E43

Big 9 x 6 Halloweenie Treat
Thick, Uncut \$100 585-4515 E43

Tall, Dark, Handsome.

ITALIAN. 807-3909

863-4847

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drilling and filling:
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Hot, Sexy, Blond Stud Man
★ 8½ X 6½ ★
Anytime — Chris 929-0305 E43

Smooth-Hnsm! Hung! Tropic!
ISLAND BOY!
i wana lei u 292-2439 Makue E43

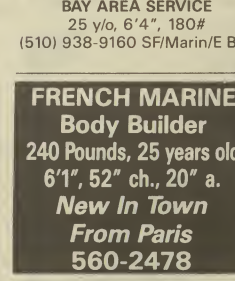
MR. SURPRISE
BLD/BLUE EYES BB
6'4", 250#, FRIENDLY
NEWCOMER FROM LA
VAN DAMME LOOKS
TO MATCH INCREDIBLE
BODY. "FRENCH"
PAG: ALAIN 303-0677 E43

Hot Hawaiian-Jap Pornstar
2 Rock-Hard, Smooth Globes
of Butt! 27, 24 Hr. 328-5304 E44

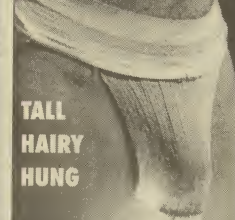
Rick 907-4473
BAY AREA SERVICE
25 y/o, 6'4", 180#
(510) 938-9160 SF/Marin/E Bay E43

FRENCH MARINE
Body Builder
240 Pounds, 25 years old
6'1", 52" ch., 20" a.
New In Town
From Paris
560-2478

DAVID



TALL
HAIRY
HUNG

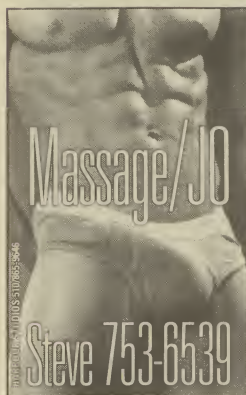


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People and Personals

MODELS & ESCORTS



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Daniel 621-2354 Out Only
My Hands, Your Hungry Butt

Handsome, Hot, Hungry, Hung!
Masculine ★ Uncut ★ Versatile

BIG 9" BEAUTY THOROUGHbred
29 y/o 6'2" 170# Friendly Stud
Get Roy! ★ \$100 I/O ★ 469-9894

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Clean-Cut Jock. Brn. Bl, 5'10"
175# Hot Man ★ (415) 560-0034

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YOUNG BOY
9X6" HORSE HUNG
VERBAL • BLOND • SMOOTH
DANIEL 267-6153



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Erotic J/O Strip
Hot, Hung! Matt 552-7224
Spanking-Paddling 773-9130

CHASE — 546-7825



6'4", 235 LB.
8" cut, 18" arms,
49" ch, 32" wa
Aggressive Top,
Verbal.
Bodyworship
Fantasies.
Most Scenes.
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BUTCH LATINO
Hot, Smooth
24 y/o Stud
Mitch 627-1757 24 Hr.

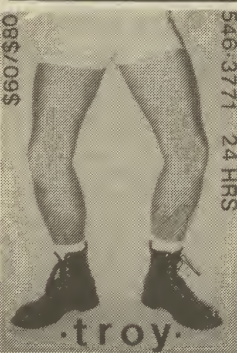
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6', 160#, 8.5x6.5
German/Irish/OUT
ERIK GRAY
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Gloves, kinky, Andy. 5'9", 175
stach, 861-2668. Sling.
Movies, Exper. Safe \$70.

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repeat discounts
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TOTAL WORSHIP



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troy

bad boy-
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22, Thin, Scruffy, Haight St.
LONGHAIR BOY
8x5, Smooth Body, Hot!
Tim 807-3626. Out Anytime

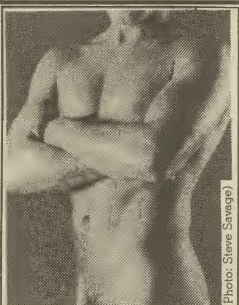
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SEXY ATHLETIC STUD
6'1", 190 LBS, 28 YR, 9X6
CALL JEFF 281-0747

FIST
Sling, toys, rim-seat
Handsome, 34, 6'4", 175
FF, TT, Scat. Al 985-7063


FF, TT, B/D, TOYS
Gloves, kinky, Andy. 5'9", 175
stache. 861-2668. Sling.
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1 Danish - 1 Roman
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1 top - 1 bottom
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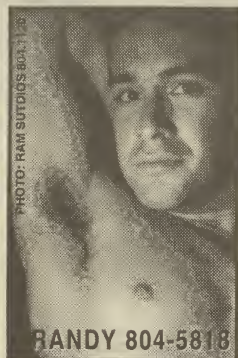


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who's hung like
you'd hope.
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size 12D feet, call
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GREEK GOD
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5'10", 175 lbs.
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6'2", blond/blu, masc, hung
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9x6 24 HOURS
Call 775-4771 24 Hours



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FF-TT
SLING
HOT DAD
MARK
\$50
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6', 235 pd 52" c 20" a 641-7773
998-6514 \$100

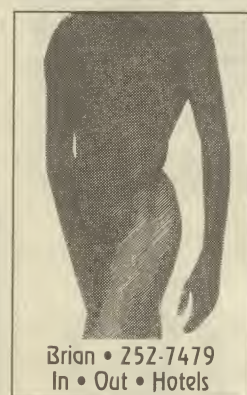
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Friendly, handsome, nasty
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29 y/o, Greek. Also massage.
Call Mark 281-3234

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Ex-Marine, 25, Hot body, all
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MAN WITH A FIST • TOYS
Give It Up To Nick 885-1471

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MUSCLE SWEATS
WORKBELT & BOOTS
A Hot Rugged Dude That
Works Hard, Pounds More
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Than Bricks With A Power-
Tool That Drills Sharp & Deep.
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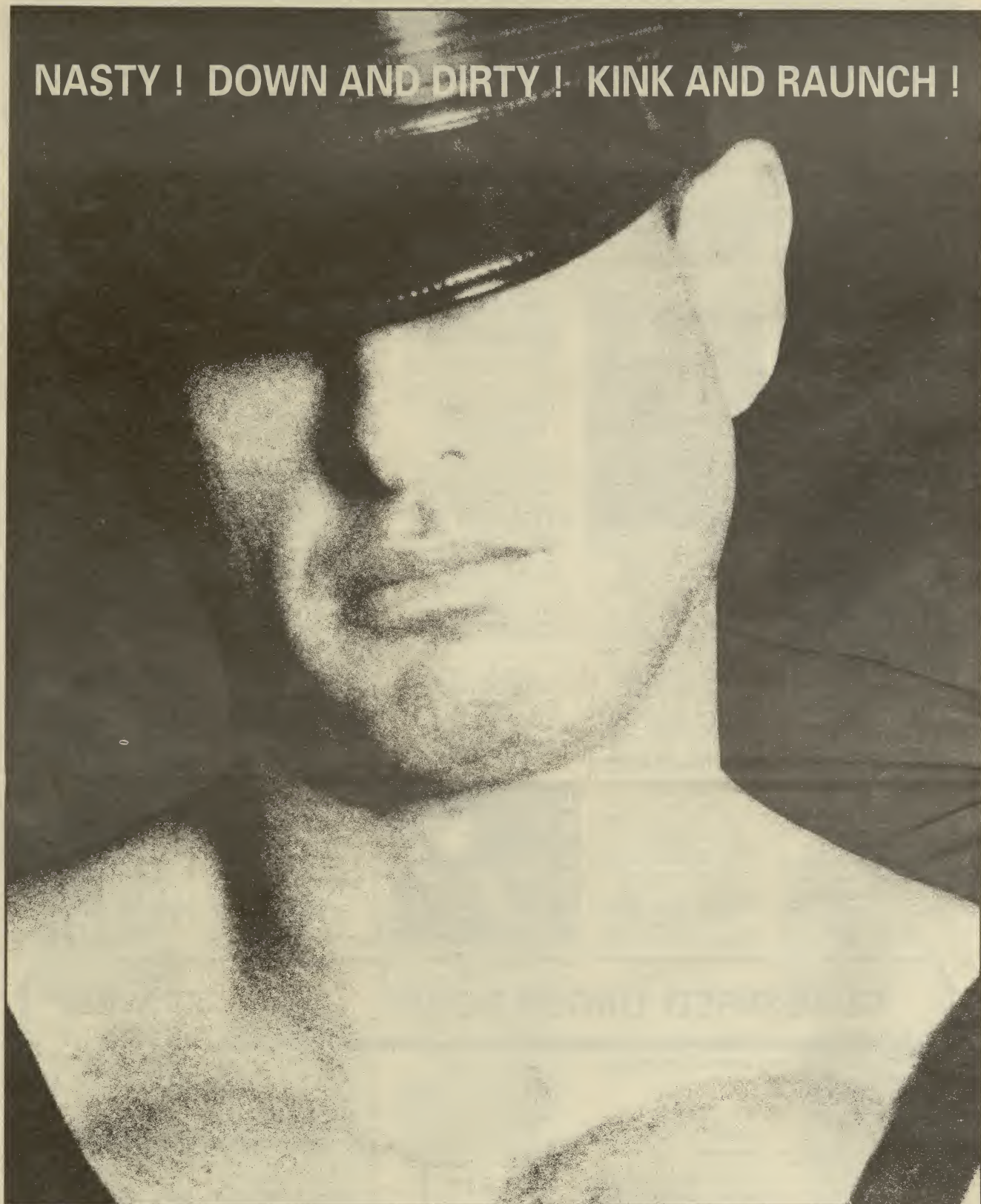
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